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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-010 *17 January 1995*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel-Syria Talks Said To Resume in 'Coming Days'

TA1501191595 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Jan 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli-Syrian negotiations will resume in the coming days. Our political correspondent has learned that despite the Syrian foreign minister's statement on the suspension of talks, it has been agreed that the two countries' ambassadors to Washington will reconvene, to be joined soon by senior officers from the two armies.

Minutes of Lantos-al-Asad Meeting Disclosed

TA1601125495 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Jan 95 p 7

[Report on interview by Hayim Shibi in Washington: "Full Transcript of Conversation between al-Asad and Congressman Tom Lantos"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Place: Damascus. Time: Two weeks ago, Hafiz al—Asad met with Democratic Congressman Tom Lantos.

Al-Asad speaks and provides other keys to penetrating "the lion from Damascus" and his strategic policy.

[Lantos] We will hold elections in 1966, when the attention of the President and Congress will be focused on domestic issues. We have a relatively narrow window of opportunities in which to progress....Mr. President, I would like to hear how you view the upcoming moves in the peace process.

[Al-Asad] I have no doubt that you know everything anyway....America is the engine that drives things, and your ambassador knows everything.

[Lantos] He does not tell me. He is committed to secrecy.

[Al-Asad] That is how it should be. We invest a lot of time in the peace issue. We have the same outlook on the window of opportunities. If I look at the situation objectively, Rabin's situation in the polls is poor because he does not implement what he promised in his election campaign. He promised to bring peace, and now, three years after that promise, he has still not achieved it.

As for the Christopher team, I am not sure what they are saying, but I tell you that they will not say anything unequivocal, perhaps because they are mediators and do not want to say who is to blame. Rabin deals with parts of the peace process without continuity and without a desire to reach a comprehensive agreement. I do not believe that peace processes are handled in this way anywhere else.

There was a point when the Washington talks were being conducted very well. Suddenly, the Oslo accord cropped up. Despite the relaxed and appropriate atmosphere that prevailed between us, Israel's behavior changed. And as you know, Oslo was outside the U.S. initiative and outside the circle of striving toward comprehensive peace. Since Oslo, Israel has slowed down the pace. They say: We need additional time. We say: So, take it.

Following Oslo, a brake was put on the other tracks. As a result, U.S. efforts were no longer devoted to achieving a comprehensive accord but to helping Israel achieve the agreement to which it aspired. For instance, they would come to us and ask us not to disrupt, not to sabotage, and the fact is, we did not sabotage.

[Lantos] We know that.

[Al-Asad] But we stressed that a separate peace agreement will not last....Nobody can deny that we Arabs are one nation, despite all the differences between us. There are sometimes differences between leaders. A leader can continue to rule his people for a time, even when there is a dispute between him and his people, but he cannot go on doing so forever.

What is happening now is clear: The Palestinian opposition is stronger than it was prior to Oslo. The Israelis know that full well; they are very close to the Palestinians.

Jordan did not have significant differences of opinion with Israel. Based on the information I have, all the parties there are opposed to the agreement with Israel. They stick to their positions, and support for them is high. At first, most of the parties were not opposed, but now they understand that a separate agreement is meant to weaken the Arab nation, to deal with one state after the other. They understand that Israel does not want a comprehensive agreement.

Israel says that it needs time. I have read many history books. This is the first time that I see a country that needs time in order to digest [le'akel] one foe in order to advance and digest the second. They will never be able to digest Syria.

[Lantos] It is hard to digest 'Arafat....

[Al-Asad] I did not mention him, but if it is difficult to digest 'Arafat, then it is impossible to digest al-Asad. Is it at all conceivable that we would aspire to achieve a process whereby we are digested?

[Lantos] Digesting is not a word Rabin uses. Israeli public opinion needs time in order to digest the handshake with 'Arafat, but it will be different with al-Asad. Your handshake with Rabin will be a source of joy.

[Al-Asad] I wanted to explain their style. In everything related to Rabin, the Likud's chances are better. The difficulties awaiting those who signed—Husayn, 'Arafat—are great. As a result of all that, Syria is facing greater difficulties, not because they did something

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against us, but because they have made Syria more cautious, more concerned, and more dubious.

There are those in Israel—I do not know them—who want peace....They know full well that Rabin is wasting time and that time has not been exploited properly. We have lost time, and it is Rabin's responsibility. If Rabin were serious, we could have signed with everybody in Washington on a single date. There is, of course, an opposition, but the decisive majority would have supported peace. To my great regret, things did not develop that way.

[Lantos] I appreciate your analysis. What can be done now?

[Al-Asad] I do not want to speak for the Israelis. We are still trying.

[Lantos] Excellent.

[Al-Asad] We are ready to reach peace within a week. Israel brings up things outside the process. We say full peace in return for a full withdrawal. When I say full peace, I mean normal peace, of the type existing between 187 countries in the world. Israel is looking for additional things. The picture is frozen. I will not go into details. The things they are asking for are burdensome for us.

[Lantos] What?

[Al-Asad] Our domestic rights, of course. We are a free people; nobody intervenes. We will stop them. This is not something new here. We have always acted that way toward friend or foe. We were close friends with the Russians, but we never permitted them to intervene in domestic matters. I say that in order to explain that our independence is dear to us, whether facing friend or foe. Israel might be playing around like that with others but not with us. If that is a condition for peace, there will be no peace. Peace does not mean intervening in the domestic affairs of another country.

I told Christopher: We offer more than 242 and 338. Look at the text. The resolution refers to ending belligerency. We offer normal, peaceful relations like we have with other states. What the Israelis want outside the agreement is a waste of time, and Rabin knows we will never agree to it.

[Lantos] We are referring to commerce and tourism.

[Al-Asad] They want to define cooperation. They want a lot, more than what we have with Jordan, for instance, or with other Arab states. That cannot be dragged into the agreement. We have economic accords between Arab states which have not been implemented for 50 years....

[Lantos] I understand.

[Al-Asad] After the signing, we will be able to start relations, when we see that we have an interest in a project. Interests, of course, change and can develop in the future.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 16 January adds: "Prime Minister Rabin has been informed by a U.S. congressman that Syria's President al-Asad shows no signs of willingness to compromise. Israel Radio's Washington correspondent says that the briefing was given to Rabin after a meeting in Damascus between representative Tom Lantos and President al-Asad. Al-Asad continued to insist that Israel withdraw from all of the Golan Heights. The entire report the prime minister received on the Syrian president's negotiating position was said to have been pessimistic."]

'Arafat Proposes Joint Patrols in West Bank 'Hot Spots'

TA1501121295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Jan 95 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli sources have said that Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has proposed that both parties currently designate specific West Bank "hot spots" where security problems can be expected and station joint Palestinian-Israeli security patrols there after the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeploys outside Palestinian population centers.

According to the sources, 'Arafat's proposal recently reached Israel through unofficial channels. According to the proposal, the IDF would redeploy outside of all the Palestinian population centers on the West Bank before the elections, and Israel would continue to maintain a security presence only in a limited number of locations, in cooperation with the Palestinian Police. It would also be stressed that the Israeli forces are stationed there for security purposes only and not to continue the occupation.

The sources explained that Israel is consolidating a proposal to hold negotiations on an interim accord detailing the new security arrangements in the West Bank before and after the elections to the autonomy council. The elections will be held only after the agreement is finalized and only parts of it, as mutually agreed upon by both sides, will be implemented in the course of the negotiations, such as the IDF's withdrawal from one or more West Bank towns or the transferal of additional administrative authorities to the PA.

The sources said that the negotiations on the IDF redeployment in the West Bank are now at a very initial stage. According to the sources, the prime minister wants to implement the Oslo agreement and reach an interim accord on the West Bank; however, there is still no agreed-upon Israeli position with regard to this issue. The sources asserted that "the reports that the Palestinians and Israel are about to hand each other redeployment maps were overly optimistic and premature. Both parties have floated ideas, but there has been no orderly exchange of views."

The IDF General Staff and Planning Branch are currently examining various redeployment options, but no

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plan has been authorized or even presented to the chief of staff or the prime minister yet. According to the sources, there are still no accepted definitions for basic tenets of the interim accord, such as the boundaries of the PA's jurisdiction in the West Bank or the principles of the security regime. "It is unclear whether the armored corps memorial at Latrun will be included in the agreement," the sources said; "neither is there any clear definition of the settlers' security needs or the ways to guarantee accessibility to the settlements."

Israelis, Palestinians Agree on Visits to Gaza

TA1601062495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Israeli-Palestinian contact committee has decided that from now on, Palestinians from abroad who visit the Gaza Strip will be permitted to stay for seven months. Until now, only three-month permits were given. Members of the committee met last night at the Erez checkpoint.

Peres To Meet Omani Official on Interests Offices

TA1701085795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and the Omani foreign minister are due to confer in Cairo next month to advance the establishment of interests offices in both countries. The Omanis recently put off the opening of the offices. Jerusalem officials said it was due to the Alexandria summit.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir conferred in Washington with Omani representatives and was told that the offices would probably be set up following the month of Ramadan.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League 'Source' on Possible Kuwait-Iraq POW Meeting

LD1201131995 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1235 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Jan—A responsible source at the Arab League has said that contacts are underway to arrange a joint tripartite meeting, to include representatives of the State of Kuwait, Iraq, and the International Red Cross Organization, to discuss the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq.

In a statement to KUNA here today, the source, who requested anonymity, expects the meeting to be held in Cairo during this, or next month at the latest. [passage omitted]

The source, who is familiar with this issue, said that Iraq suggested holding a tripartite committee meeting on the international border between Iraq and Kuwait, but Kuwait rejected the Iraqi proposal and requested such a meeting be held in Cairo. He pointed out that the two sides have not yet agreed on the time and place for a meeting. [passage omitted]

Syria's Bid To 'Restore' Iraq, Stop Normalization 'Failed'

NC1401200095 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 4 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by George Bakasini: "Damascus Proposed, and Egypt and Saudi Arabia Rejected, Adopting a Position on Normalization and 'Restoration' of Iraq"; "Arab Diplomatic Sources Say No Full Agreement in Alexandria Summit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Open Arab and non-Arab discussions of the results of the Alexandria minisummit, especially by the countries concerned about the summit's implications on the peace process in the region, are not yet over.

The secrecy with which preparations for the summit was shrouded—so much so that Lebanon knew nothing in advance—also applies to the results of the meeting, although the final statement reflected, to some extent, the contents of the summit and the subjects it addressed. This secrecy, in fact, opened the door to conflicting views and interpretation on the results of the tripartite summit, although there is a consensus that it secured the minimum "gains" required, albeit moral gains only.

But some Arab diplomats who were acquainted with the results of the summit and conveyed the atmosphere to Lebanese officials yesterday gave a clearer picture of what took place at the Alexandria summit. Some of these diplomats believe the summit basically met two specific needs:

The first is Syrian. Syria was eager to immunize its position on one hand and stop the collapse of other Arab fronts on the other, especially as it saw a race to normalize relations with Israel.

The second is Egyptian, and it proceeds from Cairo's ambition to regain its Arab role on the one hand and its middle- or middleman-role between the Arabs and the United States on the other—a role it almost lost recently after its lukewarm relations with Washington.

But this common Syrian-Egyptian interest was confined to some general, or formality matters, so to speak. It did not apply to more important issues that are linked to the essence of the Syrian hopes from the summit, as the Arab diplomatic sources say. It can be concluded, according to the sources, that the summit succeeded in form, but failed to achieve all of its ambitions in essence.

Why? Informed sources, citing Arab diplomats, answer this question by pointing to three points that were a source of disagreement among the three leaders. The extent of this disagreement varied from one point to another, depending on the position of each of the three

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leaders. The three points are linked to the normalization of relations with Israel, the "restoration" of Iraq, and the position on the peace process in general.

The sources explain that the Syrian president had proposed firmer positions on these points than the positions expressed by the summit's final statement. But Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Saudi King Fahd were more inclined toward less sharp positions, which led to a final statement that can be described as a "compromise" between the Syrian viewpoint on the one hand and the Egyptian and Saudi viewpoint on the other.

The final statement, therefore, contained no reference to the normalization issue, the sources note. The Syrian president had hoped the summit would adopt a clear position on this subject as a true attempt to stop the Arab race toward normalization, especially after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Oman, which, in the Syrian opinion, constituted a big hole in the Arab wall.

The second point raised by the Syrian side, in its attempt to gather more Arab cards to confront the expansion of the Israeli danger in the region, was the need to "restore" Iraq to the Arab body. But Saudi and Egyptian reservations also stripped this point of its importance. Indeed, the reference in the final statement to this matter was confined to calling on Iraq to "respect Arab and international legitimacy and earnestly and seriously abide by the Arab League Charter and the Collective Arab Defense Pact." The statement also called on Iraq "to complete its step of recognizing Kuwait and its border, and to implement all Security Council resolutions."

Concerning the third point, the peace process, it was reasonably adopted in the final statement through "appreciating Syria's position and efforts to render the peace process a success"; firmly supporting Syria's just demands; and demanding an Israeli withdrawal from the entire Golan to the 4 June 1967 border, from south Lebanon, and from the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem. However, more than that was needed; namely, practical and serious steps to stop the series of Arab collapses, and a call on the Arabs, especially the Gulf states, to support Syria and link any progress in their relations with Israel to effective progress on the negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track. This was necessary to obstruct any success Israel may score in its negotiations with Syria by advancing its relations with other Arab countries, especially in the absence of the hoped-for Arab League role in such circumstances. The sources also believe that the final statement's reference to "boosting" the Arab League role is nothing more than a slogan that is hard to implement.

Egypt, Jordan, PA Officials To Discuss Refugees

NC1601150295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza, 16 Jan (MENA)—Representatives from Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority [PA] will meet in Cairo on Saturday [21 January] to discuss the question of Palestinian refugees. The foreign ministers of the three countries [as received] will also meet on the sidelines of the representatives' meeting, said Ahmad Sa'id al-Tamimi, under secretary of the Interior Ministry in the PA.

In a press conference held today, al-Tamimi added that the tripartite committee on refugees will discuss the definition of refugees and their rights to return, noting that this meeting will prepare for a quadripartite meeting to be attended by the Israeli side.

At the press conference, al-Tamimi spoke about the facilities that Egypt has granted to Palestinians crossing into Egypt via the Rafah crossing point. He noted that preliminary arrangements had been made for the travel of specific cases, such as policemen, businessmen, patients, and students. The Egyptian Interior Ministry, in coordination with the Palestinian Interior Ministry, will work out the necessary arrangements concerning the travel of all Palestinians.

Al-Tamimi added that a Palestinian passport has been issued and will be available for Palestinians soon, once it is presented to the Arab League Council. He noted that he had submitted a memorandum on this subject to the recent meeting in Tunis of the Arab interior ministers, who welcomed it. He pointed out that Egypt and Libya had agreed to facilitate the transit of Palestinians working in Libya in accordance with specific arrangements. [passage omitted]

Egyptian, Lebanese Media View Perry's Regional Trip

NC1701084195

[FBIS Editorial Report] This editorial report wraps up reportage and comment appearing in Egyptian and Lebanese media monitored at Nicosia Bureau on the recent visit to the region by U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry.

Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic, in its main newscast at 1230 GMT on 8 January, reported Perry's departure from Egypt. The radio went on to report his arrival in Israel and talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and other officials in its 1830 GMT and 2100 GMT newscasts the same day. Cairo Radio made further mention of Perry's visit to Israel in its 0500 GMT and 2100 GMT newscasts on 9 January, although the 1230 GMT and 1830 GMT newscasts that day failed to mention the visit. Since then Cairo Radio monitored at Nicosia has not been observed to refer to the trip in any of its newscasts. At no time during the trip or since then has Cairo Radio been observed to carry any commentary on the subject.

Cairo ESC Television in Arabic in its 1600 GMT newscast on 9 January carried a factual two-minute video report on Perry's visit to Israel and his helicopter trip to the Golan Heights.

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The Egyptian papers covered by Nicosia Bureau have carried factual reportage but little comment on Perry's visit to Egypt and Israel. These factual reports are virtually the same as the Cairo MENA and Cairo Radio reports on the visit. The most recent issues of the newspapers received here cover the period to 12 January. Only the opposition press has been observed to criticize the visit: Cairo AL-'ARABI, mouthpiece of the small Nasirite Arab Democratic Party, on 9 January carried an 805-word item describing Perry's talks in Cairo as a "failure." The item, described as a "report," by Khalid Salah and 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Abd-al- Mun'im, said that Perry failed to persuade Egypt to renew its signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The newspaper contended that Egypt links its signing of the Treaty with a similar signing by Israel to ensure the removal of Israel's nuclear arsenal. But the newspaper said that despite this "apparent failure," Perry's visit showed features of the "special relationship" that both the United States and Egypt are said to be eager to maintain.

Cairo AL-WAFD, mouthpiece of the liberal, centrist Wafd party, in a 389-word article by 'Umar 'Abd-al-Raziq in its 10 January issue, criticized remarks by Perry on nuclear weapons. The writer took Perry to task, saying he had cautioned regional countries, including Iran, against possessing nuclear weapons while turning a "blind eye" to Israel's stockpile of "hundreds of nuclear warheads."

The pro-government newspaper AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I praised Perry's visit and remarks. In a 669-word editorial on 8 January an unnamed writer stated that the Egyptian public "highly appreciates all the positive positions expressed by the U.S. defense secretary." The writer said Egypt hoped the U.S. Administration would use its influence to "stop attempts by some extremist circles inside and outside Congress to harm the strategic relations between Washington and Cairo."

Lebanese media monitored at Nicosia Bureau have been observed to carry a few factual reports on Perry's visit to Egypt and Israel but no comment on the subject. The only Lebanese official observed by Nicosia to comment on the visit was Speaker Nabih Birri, who, in an address to members of the consular corps on 10 January, remarked: "Israel has escalated its aggression against south Lebanon to let U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry hear the sound of guns and to say that Resolution 425 cannot be implemented without security guarantees."

Nicosia Bureau has received its Lebanese newspapers for the dates up to and including 7 January. None was observed to comment on the visit.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 30 Dec 94

NC1401173795

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 30 December edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Husayn Tells Prosecutor of Attempt To Kill Him
2. 'Adil Husayn Questioned Over 23 Dec Article
3. Muslim Brotherhood, Parties, Denounce Husayn's Arrest
4. Foreign Organizations Demand Husayn's Release
5. Journalists Stage Sit-In To Protest Husayn's Detention
6. Writer Says Government Fears Advances by Islamic Trend
7. Al-Azhar Students Arrested

HUSAYN TELLS PROSECUTOR OF ATTEMPT TO KILL HIM

The 30 December issue of AL-SHA'B is almost entirely devoted to reportage on and reactions to Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn's continued remand in custody. An approximately 2,500-word report by Khalid Yunus on pages 1 and 3 highlights Husayn's statement before the Higher State Security Prosecution office on 28 December. In his remarks, Husayn stated that "a certain quarter had passed a decision to kill him during his 15-day remand at the Tura Prison. 'Adil Husayn revealed that those behind this crime are aware of the strokes he had suffered to the brain and the coronary artery and that he is locked up in a cell which was originally a toilet, in a tightly guarded prison away from any attention or follow-up. Thus, if he suffered another stroke and called for help, nobody would hear his call for treatment or help. He would consequently die and his body would be found two or three days later and the matter would look like a natural death." The writer notes that Husayn was brought before the prosecutor in a "torn-up gown" and was trembling from cold. Husayn complained that he was being kept in a cold and damp "toilet" that lacked ventilation and light and that he was not given appropriate clothes to suit these conditions. He told the prosecutor that the questioning could not continue unless his prison conditions are improved.

'ADIL HUSAYN QUESTIONED OVER 27 DEC ARTICLE

An approximately 700-word report by Khalid Yunus on pages 1 and 6 notes that 'Adil Husayn was questioned at the Higher State Security Prosecution office on 29 December in connection with the charges against him by the Ministry of Defense over his article published in the 23 December issue of AL-SHA'B dealing with U.S. military bases in Egypt. Husayn dismissed the prosecutor's charges of "publishing false reports that disrupt public security and jeopardize public interest." He emphasized that the information contained in his article had been previously published in several papers and periodicals both in Egypt and abroad. Asked about the damage incurred by the Armed Forces as a result of publishing this information, Husayn noted that he harbors full appreciation for the Armed Forces because it is the shield of the homeland. He added that the "enemies" of Egypt are trying to weaken the country and penetrate

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its defenses and that it is the duty of any honest writer to expose these schemes to safeguard his country.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD, PARTIES, DENOUNCE HUSAYN'S ARREST

Reactions to Husayn's arrest by political parties and public figures are given prominence in this edition of AL-SHA'B. A statement by the Muslim Brotherhood on Husayn's arrest is published on page 1. The statement says: "The Muslim Brotherhood strongly denounces the arrest of Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn as part of the extraordinary measures which for a long time we have been saying prevent parties and all popular forces in the Egyptian community from practicing their active political role. This puts a big question mark over the political regime's seriousness in handling the issue of democracy. The Muslim Brotherhood demands his immediate release and wishes that the normal law and judiciary be the sole competent authority that could guarantee everybody's right to seek their judgment and acknowledge their verdicts."

The Wafd Party, in an approximately 300-word statement by party leader Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din, expresses "extreme concern and deep regret" over the measures taken against Husayn and sees in these measures a violation of human rights and the rights of journalists to carry out their duties as well as a serious threat to the "incomplete democracy" that we live under. The statement urges President Mubarak to reconsider these measures and announce to the public that these measures do not represent a new policy by the regime against whose who disagree with it.

Similar reactions protesting Husayn's arrest and demanding his release are published on page 1 by the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party, the Nasirite Party, the Liberal Party, the Muslim Brotherhood-dominated Bar Association, and the Journalists Association.

FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS DEMAND HUSAYN'S RELEASE

Reactions by foreign human rights organizations and groups to Husayn's arrest are highlighted on page 1 and 6. An approximately 300-word statement by the director of the London-based group Just International expresses "shock" at the arrest of Husayn, who is described as a courageous writer who has served the cause of justice for years. The statement notes that "it is clear that President Husni Mubarak and the ruling group are determined to cling to power by resorting to barbarian and repressive measures that violate the people's basic rights." The statement calls for Husayn's immediate and unconditional release.

An approximately 400-word report on a statement issued by the London-based human rights group Liberty is published on pages 1 and 6. The statement strongly denounces the "unjustified" arrest of Husayn and the "humiliating" treatment he has been accorded since his detention on 24 December. The statement adds that Husayn was stripped of his clothes, medicines, and even his spectacles and was left in a cell without a blanket. The statement points out that the role of the police in Egypt has virtually replaced that of the law and that "accusations are cooked up against political opponents based on fabricated evidences."

An approximately 400-word report on a cable to President Mubarak by the New York-based Committee for the Protection of Journalists is published on page 1. In the cable, the committee urges Mubarak to intervene to secure Husayn's release and expresses concern that Husayn may have been punished in an attempt to curtail his capability as a journalist.

JOURNALISTS STAGE SIT-IN TO PROTEST HUSAYN'S DETENTION

An unattributed 100-word report on page 1 notes that the sit-in staged by journalists at the Journalists Association building in protest of 'Adil Husayn's detention and maltreatment has entered its fourth day. Some of the protesters are threatening to begin an open-ended hunger strike if Husayn is not released by the authorities.

On the same page, a 300-word statement by the Journalists Association notes that the "arbitrary measures" taken against colleague 'Adil Husayn are in conflict with the guarantees that the law grants to the journalist's right to express his opinion." The statement notes that the Journalists Council will remain in open session to follow up the developments in this case.

On page 3, a conference by the Freedoms Committee of the Journalists Association in solidarity with Husayn is highlighted in an approximately 3,000-word report by 'Abd-al-Rahman Isma'il. Several journalists speak at the conference to protest Husayn's "maltreatment" at prison. AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Majdi Husayn pointed out that such treatment befits "our rulers," who are the cause of all the calamities we are suffering from and who "have conspired against the future of this nation and are now trying to lock up any honest person who tries to pinpoint their mistakes." Other speakers at the conference include Mustafa Bakri, chief editor of the opposition daily AL-AHRAR; Nasirist writer Mahmud al-Maraghi, and independent lawyer Muhammad 'Asfur.

WRITER SAYS GOVERNMENT FEARS ADVANCES BY ISLAMIC TREND

An approximately 1,200-word report by Khalid Yunus on page 10 comments on the "crisis" at the Bar Association. Yunus explains that the "sweeping victory" scored by the Islamic trend in the association's elections in September 1992 has shocked the government. With similar victories by the Islamists scored in the Engineering and Doctors' Associations, the government had to search for a way to stop this Islamic march. The way to do so was to issue a unified law governing elections in

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the Professional Associations. Under this law, elections are not deemed valid unless more than 50 percent of an association's members cast their votes. The writer adds that as soon as the Islamic-oriented members of the Bar Association took their seats in the Bar Council, a vicious campaign was launched against them to distort the image of the council by disseminating false allegations against it. The government measures failed, however, as demonstrated by the overwhelming victory achieved by the Islamic trend in the recent by-elections in al-Jizah branch of the Bar Association. The current crisis between the association's chairman, Ahmad al-Khawajah, and the members of the council reflects the government's "disappointment" over its failure, the writer adds.

AL-AZHAR STUDENTS ARRESTED

An approximately 250-word report by Mu'tazz al-Hadidi on page 6 notes that the Central Security Forces last week broke into the dormitory of al-Azhar University in Madinat Nasr, a Cairo suburb, and arrested 225 students. They were taken to Madinat Nasr police station, where they were beaten and humiliated, he adds. In another incident, 17 al-Azhar students have been evicted from the dormitory without explanation, the report notes.

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-Rabbuh Discusses 'Arafat Upcoming Amman Visit

JN1601111695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture in the Palestinian Authority, by correspondent Fathi Barqawi; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Barqawi] Brother Abu-Bashshar [Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh] a Palestinian delegation, which you will head, will visit Amman soon. Can you tell us about the topics that will be discussed?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The Palestinian delegation will visit Amman early next week to prepare the final documents and papers before President 'Arafat meets His Majesty King Husayn. Of course, there are also economic, trade, and monetary affairs, as well as matters dealing with education, health, and administrative affairs. In our previous negotiations with the brothers in Jordan, we set the bases for tackling these affairs and the requirements for a final document that will be discussed at the Palestinian-Jordanian summit. [passage omitted]

I would like to say that in spite of all the steps that have been made, or that have not been achieved, there remains, in the political process, an increasing need to promote relations, to coordinate, and to carry out joint work among all the Arab parties involved in the political process. These parties do not comprise only the countries which are called confrontation states but also many other the Arab countries. Gulf countries and Arab Maghreb countries are also interested. We hope that through this joint action, we will manage to overcome much of what has harmed Arab relations, particularly our relations with the friends in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon over the past stage.

[Barqawi] When do you expect brother President Yasir 'Arafat to visit Amman to consolidate the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I believe before the end of next week, that is before next Thursday.

[Barqawi] Thank you.

Delay of 'Arafat Amman Trip Due to 'Disagreement'

MM1701110495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jan 95 p3

[Unattributed report: " 'Arafat: Rabin Contesting Territory With Me; Jordan Contesting Territory and People With Me"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A leading Palestinian official has quoted Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat as saying: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is contesting territory with me but Jordan is contesting both territory and people with me. The official told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that 'Arafat made this declaration in the course of his discussion of his reasons for not making his anticipated visit to Jordan which was expected to take place yesterday or today. The Palestinian official said that 'Arafat preferred to make the visit, if he thought it was necessary, after attending the Jerusalem Committee meeting in Morocco under the chairmanship of King Hassan II of Morocco.

'Arafat's statement denotes serious disagreement warranting postponement of his visit to Jordan despite King Husayn's insistence that the visit should take place at this stage.

Informed sources say that 'Arafat believes that the time is ripe for submitting a proposal to the Jerusalem Committee calling for the formation of a subcommittee, attached to the Jerusalem Committee, to have direct custody of the Islamic holy places until such time as the [Palestinian] Authority can take over such custody itself. The sources add that the proposal runs completely counter to Jordan's declared position that it should have custody of these places for the time being until the political authority in the holy city is determined.

The sources also say that 'Arafat is carrying further the dispute which erupted at the Casablanca conference over Jerusalem when King Husayn walked out angrily and returned home after the conference's final statement omitted reference to Jordan's role in connection with Jerusalem.

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'Arafat, Other Officials Address Gaza Celebration

JN1401091595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Addressing thousands of people in Gaza, President Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that Jerusalem will be the capital of the Palestinian state under Palestinian sovereignty.

The president said: We have made the peace of the brave, not the peace of submission. Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine, and its jurisdiction and sovereignty are for the Palestinian people.

President Yasir 'Arafat was speaking at a celebration held at al- Azhar University in Gaza City to mark the anniversary of the martyrdom of two Fatah Central Committee members, Salah Khalaf, Abu- Iyad, and Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, Abu-al-Hawl; and Fakhri al-'Umari, Abu-Muhammad.

For his part, Fatah Central Committee member Sakhr Habash said that the danger of procrastination and maneuvering by the Yitzhaq Rabin government necessitates further caution and alertness, that the settlements are time bombs, and that there will be no peace, security, or stability with the presence of the settlements and settlers on the Palestinian land. More details in the following report:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] President Yasir 'Arafat last night renewed the pledge and the oath to pursue the march until Jerusalem. This came in a speech he delivered in the commemoration celebration the Fatah Movement held on the fourth anniversary marking the martyrdom of the three leaders: Salah Khalaf, Abu-Iyad; Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, Abu-al-Hawl; and Fakhri al- 'Umari, Abu-Muhammad. The celebration was held at Shaykh 'Awwad Hall at al-Azhar University.

President 'Arafat stressed the need for national unity as a means to establish the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. He added: We still have a long way to go. This land is a Palestinian Arab land. No one can change this fact.

'Arafat also emphasized: We will pursue the march until the Palestinian flag is hoisted over the walls, minarets, and churches of holy Jerusalem.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said: The road is still long and rough. We are still far from achieving our objectives. The only way to reward the martyrs is to be true to what they have been martyred for and to our national objectives. 'Abd-al-Shafi added: We are facing very difficult challenges.

Salim al-Za'nun, acting Palestine National Council speaker, noted that the assassination of Abu-Iyad and his comrades was a strike against the entire peace process, especially since their presence would pose a threat to the enemies of peace.

Al-Za'nun added: I believe that the brothers in the opposition are well aware of the fact that we are in the same boat, and that this needs a wise leadership. He praised all sincere efforts to establish the independent Palestinian state. He expressed the hope that this anniversary will be celebrated next year in Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine. [end recording]

'Arafat Receives U.S. Consul, Clinton Letter

JN1301162295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat held talks with the U.S. consul-general at the Presidency in Gaza this morning. The two sides discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian- Israeli peace process and the serious consequences the Israeli settlement drive will have on the Palestinian territory.

President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser Nabil Abu-Rudaynah said that the U.S. consul-general handed his excellency a letter from his U.S. counterpart Bill Clinton, congratulating him on his winning the Nobel Peace prize and praising the Palestinian decision to pursue the peace process. In his letter, Clinton reiterated his call to abide by the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and to support the Palestinian National Authority.

Official Denies Fighters To Be Transferred From Lebanon

JN1301183795 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the information that has been circulating for some time about a plan to transfer Palestinian fighters from Lebanon to the self-rule areas to join the Palestinian Authority, Fatah Central Committee member 'Abbas Zaki told correspondent Thana' al-Imam:

[Begin Zaki recording] There has not actually been any agreement on transferring a number of Palestinians to Gaza. All that has been said in this regard is press speculations. However, we and the Lebanese are absolutely agreed that everything necessary to provide a descent life for the Palestinian refugees must be done. We have repeatedly announced that there are no gunmen and no fighters in Lebanon to be transported by ships to Palestine. There are a group of displaced brothers living in Lebanon. We are trying our best to provide a descent life for them and to spare them the tribulations caused by any differences between countries. [end recording]

DFLP's Hawatimah Reportedly Applies To Live in Gaza

Said Not To Fight Peace

TA1601053395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The head of the Palestinian Democratic Front group, Nayif Hawatimah, has asked

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permission to move to Gaza with several of his supporters. The request was made via the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Hawatimah stressed that he opposes the peace process, but if he is allowed to come to Gaza, he will not work against the peace process and is likely to strengthen the forces opposed to Islamic fundamentalism.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry has passed on the information to security officials for consideration.

DFLP Members Deny Report

TA1601075695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] in the territories have denied the report that Hawatimah has applied for a permit to live in Gaza. 'Ali Abu-Hilal told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the report is a lie spread by Israel in a bid to harm the DFLP. Hani 'al-Isawi said that in the present situation in Gaza, there is no reason for Hawatimah to want to live there.

[A related report on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 16 January adds: "Security elements said this morning they do not believe the DFLP leader will be permitted to come to Gaza. A senior security element said Hawatimah is defined as a terrorist with blood on his hands and if a political decision to permit his arrival is made, it will encounter legal difficulties."]

DFLP Issues Statement to Report

NC1601162195 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A short while ago we received a statement from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] that says: The DFLP denies an Israeli radio report that its secretary general [Nayif Hawatimah] applied to Israel, through the Russian Foreign Ministry, to reside in Gaza. The report contains distortion and forgery of facts. We would like to emphasize the following position on this matter:

1. The DFLP held contacts with the Russians and the Europeans to pressure the Israeli Government into allowing all leaders and cadres of the Palestinian opposition to the Oslo agreement to return to the Palestinian homeland without any political conditions or restrictions.

2. The subject that was discussed had nothing to do with the return of a certain individual or individuals, but with the right to repatriation of all Palestinians, because this is a sacred right.

3. This Israeli leakage and forgery of facts is aimed at confusing the DFLP's rejection of the Oslo agreement, distorting the image of the Palestinian opposition, and confusing the Palestinian masses.

Qaddumi on Agreement in Talks With Opposition

JN1401143895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, left Damascus this morning at the end of a three-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Qaddumi was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, ranking Foreign Ministry officials, the PLO representative in Damascus, and staff members of the Palestinian mission.

In a statement to the Syrian News Agency, SANA, Qaddumi hailed the firm pan-Arab position of Syria, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, and the wise policy he is following in order to unify Arab positions, as well as his efforts in the international arena to emphasize the pillars on which the peace process was based, especially the principle of land for peace.

He expressed his pleasure in visiting Damascus. He said that during this visit there was a valuable chance to exchange views on fostering joint Arab action and bolstering Arab solidarity, and discussing the peace process and the obstacles Israel sets before the peace march. He said this is evidence that Israel does not want peace.

He said that during this visit he held a tripartite meeting with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. He said: At this meeting, we all discussed developments in the international and Arab arenas, and the efforts designed to realize Arab reconciliation.

He added: At this meeting, we emphasized the support of the Palestinian people and the PLO for the just demands of the Lebanese people and the right of this people to continue their resistance of Israeli occupation.

On his meeting with the Palestinian factions opposed to the peace agreement with Israel, Qaddumi said: There has been another valuable chance to meet with our brothers in the Palestinian factions that are affiliated with the PLO. We also met with brother Khalid al-Fahum, head of the Palestinian National Salvation Front. He said: Discussions at these meetings dealt with Palestinian issues, especially at this stage. We evaluated the conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Qaddumi added that during his meetings with the opposition Palestinian factions, discussions dealt with the peace march and what obstructs it. He said: All agree to unify Palestinian efforts in order to abort the Israeli attempts to drive the factions into infighting.

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Qaddumi emphasized the importance of maintaining the PLO in its capacity as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the party that represents their identity. At the same time, he stressed the importance of sticking to the political constants. He said: We reached comprehensive agreement on all these issues.

Fatah Official on Protests Against Settlement

TA1701072295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians have declared today a day of protest activities against settlements and land confiscations. Marwan al-Barghuthi, Fatah secretary general in the West Bank, threatens a new intifadah in the territories. Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Menahem] The National Committee for the War Against Settlements set up by the Palestinians starts its campaign today. In its first gathering, the committee called for a general strike, but after succumbing to Fatah pressure, it converted the strike into a day of demonstrations and processions. There will be demonstrations in three locations: Hebron, al-Birah, and Kafr al-Dik in Samaria. Representatives of all political streams and public institutions in the West Bank will be represented. Marwan al-Barghuthi:

[Al-Barghuthi] I think that in the coming weeks, a new intifadah against the settlements will commence.

[Ben-Menahem] What does a new intifadah mean?

[Al-Barghuthi] A new intifadah against the settlements.

[Ben-Menahem] What do you plan to do?

[Al-Barghuthi] To hold processions in all locations. I hope the public processions will pass peacefully, because the entire nation wants to make its position against settlements known. I do not think we have any intention of causing disturbances, but we intend to stop settlements.

[Ben-Menahem] The national committee to defend the lands will convene in Bethlehem this afternoon. Those attending will be residents from the Bethlehem area, who claim their lands have been expropriated, and representatives of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestinian, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestinian, the Sons of the Village movement, and the al-Haqq movement. The Palestinians say that this is the first day of an organized public struggle and that the protest actions against settlements will continue. [end recording]

Demonstrators Clash With Soldiers

TA1701104195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians are demonstrating at three locations in Judaea and Samaria against land confiscation. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] used force to disperse the demonstrators near the settlement of Psagot and detained some of the leaders, including Ahmad al-Tibi, for questioning. The demonstrations are being organized by the Palestinian Authority [PA]. They are being held at Psagot, on the road to Bet Hagay, and near the settlements of 'Aley Zahav and Pdu'el.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that a demonstration headed by al-Tibi and PA members left Ramallah for the settlement of Psagot this morning. The demonstrators broke through IDF roadblocks twice, and the army was forced to call for reinforcements in order to stop them. The protesters held a rally and then refused to disperse; therefore, the army had to use force. The soldiers fired in the air, threw shock grenades, and detained Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, PA member 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, and Marwan al-Barghuthi, head of Fatah on the West Bank for questioning. One of the women demonstrators was injured.

Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that the IDF is preparing for a clash near the settlements of 'Aley Zahav and Pdu'el, in western Samaria, between settlers and protesters from the villages of Kafr al-Dik and Dayr Ballut. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the settlers decided that the men would not go to work today and that if the Palestinian demonstrators reach the settlement, the men will block their entry.

The third demonstration left for Bet Hagay from Hebron, headed by the mayor and a PA representative. Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that the army declared the area a closed military zone and prevented the demonstrators from approaching Bet Hagay. At some stage, the protesters decided to return to Hebron.

At Shu'fat, north of Jerusalem, there were disturbances during protests over the killing of an Arab laborer by a security guard in Jerusalem yesterday. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that after the demonstrators in Shu'fat stoned vehicles, the police fired rubber bullets at them, but there were no casualties.

Commentary Warns Against Settlement Expansion

JN1601151195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0620 GMT 16 Jan 95

[Station commentary by Fathi Barqawi]

[FBIS Translated Text] The land is the basic and most important element in our unfinished struggle with a party that believes it can simultaneously get land, peace, and tranquility. Palestinian land is ours. We must struggle tirelessly for its sake and confront the persistent attempts by settlers and those who stand behind them to remove us from this land.

The ever-increasing popular activities in protest against the settlements are vital in the confrontation of the

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threat this homeland faces and for whose sake we have struggled. The struggle will stop only when the last inch of this land is regained.

The popular moves the homeland will see tomorrow will be adequately supported by the National Authority [NA] which has promised to offer all possible assistance to the National Committee for Confronting Settlements. This committee will be in charge of the popular moves and the other related activities to mobilize our people against this settlement threat which endangers the homeland.

We will not be tempted by promises and the Israeli decision to stop the expansion of the settlements. We are accustomed to Israel's procrastination and maneuvering to win more time to impose a new reality that will not be easy to eliminate.

Under President 'Arafat, our NA is aware of the state of affairs Israel seeks to impose. It will not be deceived by the promises made by Yitzhaq Rabin's government. Those who started the war of settlements should expect us, the NA and people, to confront the aggression. We will not permit anyone to steal our land.

The Israeli government supports settlements in one way or the other and under various excuses, such as the opening of roads to besiege our Palestinian cities and villages and take more of our land. By doing this, it hits two birds with one stone. It restricts the areas the Palestinians have and it expands settlements as much as possible.

We absolutely must not depend on the Israeli government's promises. We also must not depend on the UN Security Council or on the other world powers. We must stand united against settlements. The recent stand in al-Khidr is just an example of how efficient national unity can be. The wager on fragmenting this unity has utterly failed. Palestinians are now carrying out confrontation to protect their land, houses, and trees.

The popular moves that the homeland will witness tomorrow are just the spark and a warning to those who seek to rob us of our land: Beware of trying to fragment this homeland.

Hamas Leader Urges 'Daily' Struggle Against Settlers

TA1401132795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Gaza Strip, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader Mahmud al-Zahhar has called for an armed struggle against Jewish settlements.

He told an Islamic University meeting the Palestinians should daily block the roads leading to the settlements with stones and demonstrations.

Police Search Offices of QUDS PRESS

TA1601120295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The police today searched the East Jerusalem offices of QUDS PRESS, which is identified with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and confiscated a large quantity of equipment and documents.

Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the search was made as a result of a suspicion that terrorist activities were being conducted on the premises.

Text of Hamas Communique No. 118

MM1301111295 London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic January 95 p7

[Text of Hamas Communique No. 118, dated 5 December 1994: "Yes to National Unity and a Thousand Times No to Domination and Subservience"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its regular communique, the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) has denounced the bloody massacre committed by the autonomous Authority against the sons of our people in the Gaza Strip and called on the Al-Qassam Battalions to strike at the Zionist targets in revenge for the blood of the martyrs. The communique says:

Our struggling Palestinian people. O people of heroic feats and sacrifices. O you who have proven that the imbalance of power and the weakness of capabilities cannot be an obstacle in the way of a people aspiring to freedom, independence, and the recovery of their rights. Through your blessed and heroic Intifadah, you have proven your determination to defy and resist the occupation, using stones, knives, Molotov cocktails, guns, and explosive charges, paying no attention to the discouragement of the defeated disillusioned people. You have paid no attention to all the obstacles and frustrations of the painful realities of the condition which our Arab and Islamic nation is living through.

Here is your free and proud Intifadah now entering its eighth year with persistence and determination despite the plots and challenges and despite the pledges made by a number of sons of our people to the Zionist enemy and the world to bury the Intifadah and combat its heroes and strugglers. Let all the plots and designs aimed at the liquidation of our just cause collapse, let all the shameful and humiliating agreements and treaties, which strengthen our enemy's hold over our land and open the doors for him to penetrate our Arab and Islamic nation, fall. Let the march of the resistance and struggle continue until the liberation and the hoisting of the banners of freedom and independence.

Our heroic Palestinian people. Your struggling movement, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, came into being with the start of the blessed Intifadah seven years ago. It affirmed from the very first day of its

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inception that it will only struggle against the occupation and that it will never do other than stand by its people, its nation, and its just cause.

All the attempts to cast doubts and suspicions by some hostile or rancorous quarters against our Movement have fallen and such will be the fate of all the new attempts and accusations that began to be spread by politically and popularly bankrupt quarters. For our people are far more alert than the disillusioned think. We have emerged out of the womb of this homeland and grew up on its holy soil, and we are struggling in the cause of God and the homeland. Had they had an iota of sense of shame, they would not have resorted to lies and fabrications. Let them know that their falsehoods will no longer deceive anyone, not even the smallest child in our people.

Our struggling Palestinian people. Masses of our Arab and Islamic nation.

While our struggling people were dealing painful blows to the occupation targets in Jerusalem, Bir Nabala, Tel Aviv, and Nitsarim, the Black Friday massacre in Gaza took place against sons of our people whose only sin was that they tried to stage a peaceful procession to the house of the martyr Hisham Hamad, the hero of Nitsarim, to express their support for the road of struggle and resistance to the occupation and to denounce, at the same time, the assassination plot committed against Hani 'Abid who fell victim to the treachery of the occupation authorities.

This painful massacre by the Palestinian Authority [PA] in Gaza against the unarmed sons of our people took place in a climate of instigation by the Zionist leaders and the Clinton administration to strike our struggling people's movements which are opposed to the occupation. The PA was not content with this crime which it committed against our people, and so it resorted to deception, fabrication of lies, and the distortion of facts to exonerate itself from all responsibility for what has happened.

But despite all the fabrications and lies and despite all the wrongful and provocative words uttered by many of the PA's senior officials and contained in the vengeful statements issued by various quarters, our Movement has so far refrained from reciprocating to these wrongful acts, hoping that this would make those who are behind this suspect and oppressive campaign against our Movement relent and wake up.

We hope that the rational elements within the Fatah Movement will come to realize the extent of the plots that are being hatched to pit the sons of our people against each other and push them toward a fratricidal fight which would serve nobody other than the Zionist enemy.

These arbitrary measures have encouraged our Zionist enemy to persist deeper with his suppressive measures against our people and the struggling sons. Thus the Zionist enemy demolished the house of the father of the hero Salih Suway Nazzal and closed the houses of our heroes the perpetrators of the Bir Nabala operation. The Zionist enemy has also embarked on a sweeping campaign of arrests in the wake of the stabbing of a Zionist conscript. But let them know that our people will continue on their course until the clear victory.

Our patient Palestinian people. All freemen of the World. While the autonomous Authority has been raising the slogans of democracy, plurality, and public freedoms, it has been daily committing new crimes against these slogans and affirming that it is so far removed from democracy and freedom. While it opened fire against the innocent sons of our people at the Filastin Mosque under the pretext of safeguarding of security and public order thus killing 13 of our people's sons and wounding hundreds of others in a provocative manner, we find it to be so divorced of care for the national unity that it has been staging show-off parades by its armed militia while claiming to be anxious to preserve calm and prevent any deterioration of conditions.

Where is the democracy and the respect of freedoms in this irresponsible behavior? By what right does the autonomous Authority and its suppressive machine confiscate our Palestinian newspapers and ban their circulation in the self-rule areas in a manner which is worse than that practiced by the occupation authorities, under the pretext of the failure of these papers to comply with the orders of some generals of the autonomous Authority, which has tried to impose its lies about the number of people who participated in the sweeping mass rally which our Movement had organized in the Gaza Strip in commemoration of the Al-Qassami martyr 'Imad 'Aqil and which demonstrated the immense popular support which the program of struggle and resistance enjoys.

Our struggling Palestinian people. Sons of our Arab and Islamic nation.

Our cunning Zionist enemy is actively drawing designs, day and night, to break the ranks of the sons of our one people, and has been subjecting the autonomous Authority to continued pressures to suppress our people and their struggling forces. But we in the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, while affirming our care for the unity of our Palestinian people and the sparing of every drop of the blood of its sons and our determination to ensure that our bullets are directed only against our usurping Zionist enemy, we call for the following:

Firstly: In the external field.

1. The Hamas Movement calls on all Arab, Islamic, and international quarters to exercise their role of bringing pressure to bear on the autonomous Authority to stop its transgressions and assaults on the rights and freedoms of our Palestinian people.

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2 The Hamas Movement calls on the Arab and Islamic peoples to shoulder their responsibilities toward the Zionist enemy's crime of partitioning the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

3. The Hamas Movement wishes to alert the Arab and Islamic countries to the dangers that normalization poses to the future of our cause and our nation and calls on the Arab peoples to reject all manifestations of normalization with the enemy.

4. The Hamas Movement condemns the brutal Serb offensive against the Bihac region in Bosnia-Herzegovina and denounces the Western collusion with aggression. It calls on the United Nations and on all peace-loving forces to work immediately to stop the Serb offensive and spare the blood of the Muslims in Bihac.

Secondly: In the internal field.

1. Hamas condemns the massacres committed by the autonomous Authority against our people in Gaza and holds it responsible for this massacre and asks it to admit this responsibility for the massacre and to bear the consequences of that.

2. Hamas lays the martyrs of our Palestinian people at the Gaza massacre before God and calls on the Al-Qassam heroes and the heroes of our people to strike against Zionist targets in revenge for the blood of our martyrs.

3. Hamas lays the martyr hero Hisham Hamad, the hero of the Nitsarim suicidal operation, and the martyr Hilal Muhammad Abu-al- Hayja's, hero of the armed struggle with the Zionist forces at Janin Al-Qassam, before God. It salutes the Al-Qassam heroes who carried out heroic operations in Hebron against the Zionist soldiers and settlers. It also salutes the hero Sa'id Badarinah who faced the oppressive Zionist death sentence with an honorable stand to be followed by the heroes of our people everywhere.

4 The Hamas Movement wishes to express its profound gratitude to sons of our people in the steadfast Strip who participated in the rally to commemorate the martyrdom of the hero 'Imad and the other heroes of our people, affirming to them that it will continue on the road of struggle and martyrdom.

5. The Hamas Movement wishes to congratulate our Palestinian people on the occasion of the seventh anniversary of the blessed Intifadah and the birth of the struggling Hamas Movement and calls for the commemoration of this anniversary and the escalation of confrontation against the occupation authorities.

6. The Hamas Movement denounces the vengeful statements attributed to the Fatah Movement and which touched upon our struggling Movement and heroic people at a time when our struggling people are in need of all good efforts to prevent the PA from committing further massacres against our people, and calls upon the honourable men in the Fatah Movement to dissociate themselves from these statements.

Monday 5 December 1994, corresponding to 2 Rajab 1415 of the Hegira.

Weapons Said Smuggled Into Autonomy Area From Egypt

TA1401185095 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Jan 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Large quantities of weapons have been smuggled into the autonomy area from Egypt over the last week. The weapons were smuggled using high-speed boats that Israeli Navy vessels cannot catch.

Our military affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel was told by security sources that among the smuggled weapons are medium and heavy machine guns and antitank weapons.

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Algeria

GIA Outlines Demands To End 'War' With Government

State Must Adopt Rome Demands

AU1501142695 Paris AFP in English 1108 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, Jan 15 (AFP)—The Armed Islamic Group (GIA) has said it is ready to "stop the war" in Algeria if authorities there agree to joint opposition demands reached in Rome, the GIA said in a communique received here Sunday [15 January] by AFP.

The GIA said it had contributed to the document signed in Rome this week after consulting Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) president Abassi Madani and Anwar Haddam, chairman of the foreign delegation of FIS, the fundamentalist movement that is banned in its home country Algeria.

"In the concern of preserving the interests of the nation and sparing it war, the GIA announces that it is ready to stop the war if the authorities meet the demands contained in the document of the parties meeting in Italy," the undated communique said, which was signed by the GIA leader Abou Abderrahmane Amine.

The breakthrough accord reached in Rome on Friday between the FIS and most of the country's opposition parties is aimed at ending the violence that erupted in 1992 after the military-backed regime cancelled elections that the now-banned FIS was poised to win.

Additional Conditions

LD1501150695 Paris LCI Television in French 1400 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, the GIA [Armed Islamic Group] has announced that it is ready, under certain conditions, to stop the war—in other words, to renounce violence. The GIA recalls in a communique that it has contributed to preparing the final document of the Rome meeting, including having sought the opinion, of, among others, Abbasi Madani, chairman of the FIS, the Islamic Salvation Front. This document demands a deadline for free elections to be held in Algeria. Donald Vidal Ravel:

[Ravel] The GIA is ready to stop the war if the Algerian Government accepts this document. This document is the result of an agreement between the eight Algerian opposition parties that met in Rome on 13 January. In a communique sent to Paris, the GIA—which was not present at the meeting in Italy—lays down the cessation of fighting and the Algerian Government's acceptance of the Rome final document as the first condition.

That, however, is not the only condition. The GIA also wants the law of god to be carried out on the generals; in other words, it wants their death. They also demand the immediate and unconditional release of two of their people.

Finally, the GIA demands the dissolution of all communist and atheist parties.

Even if Liamine Zeroual, head of the Algerian Government, finds it hard to comply with these conditions, the GIA communique, in any event, marks a reversal in the policy of the armed group, which has until now been calling for a holy war without any reprieve or any dialogue with the authorities.

Oposition Parties Discuss Draft Resolutions in Rome

MM1301122495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Randah Taqiyy-al-Din and Kamil al-Tawil: "Rome Seminar Calls For Truce, Transitional Government in Algeria"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris, London—Algerian opposition parties continued to discuss a draft solution to the crisis until yesterday afternoon. The resolutions, which it is believed will be issued within hours, are expected to revolve around the message sent to participants by Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, in which they outlined their view of a solution. [passage omitted]

Ali Yahya Abdennour, spokesman for the Rome-2 seminar and head of the Algerian league for the defense of human rights, has said that participants in the seminar demanded the formation of a national committee to investigate violence in Algeria. He said that the investigation committee should be formed from "independent figures."

Abdennour said: "We are suffering from a serious security problem and a major political power whose leaders cannot meet together. We must resolve this before we can call for a truce or elections." He added that the draft solution to be submitted by the parties proposes declaring a truce and then forming a broadly based transitional government comprising both the opposition and the regime to lead the country toward democratic elections.

The Islamic [Salvation] Front [FIS] Executive Committee abroad said yesterday that it had received a written message from the Front leadership inside the country signed by Shaykhs Ali Belhadj and Abassi Madani, expressing their support for the initiative to look for common political ground among political parties, especially the three fronts [FIS, the National Liberation Front, and the Socialist Forces Front] with a view to finding a way out of the crisis. They [Madani and Belhadj] also submitted proposals to that end:

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—The people's right to choose their representatives in complete freedom and entirely of their own accord, emphasizing that the only road to power is the nation's approval.

—The people's right to advise, reform, and dismiss if the ruler deviates from the straight path and harms the nation's constituents.

—To guarantee individual and mass freedoms, especially political freedoms, in the framework of Islamic principles and the nation's constants.

—To lift material and moral grievances from the people to restore their dignity, freedom, and pride.

—To lift the state of emergency in order to restore political life to all the parties, including the FIS.

—To restore usurped rights to their owners, close concentration centers [al-muhtashadat], and release political prisoners to participate in finding a legitimate, just solution.

—To take swift and effective measures to enable FIS leaders to meet freely for consultation, as mentioned in the 6 September 1994 letter to President Zeroual.

They concluded their message by saying: "These are mere proposals which can be increased or reduced. As for the principles, they are not subject to bargaining or concession." [passage omitted]

'Fundamentalists' Sign Accord

NC1301125895 Paris AFP in English 1225 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rome, Jan 13 (AFP)—Algerian Islamic fundamentalists signed an unprecedented accord with most of the country's opposition parties on Friday urging the military-backed government to hold democracy talks.

In a statement described as a "national contract" the religious and secular Algerian opposition called for a national conference to be held as soon as possible to pave the way for free, democratic elections.

The accord was signed at the headquarters of a Roman Catholic community which has sponsored six days of talks between the one-time enemy groups.

Document Rejects Violence

LD1301140695 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting of the Algerian opposition in Rome ended a few minutes ago. This was the plenary session devoted to the signing of the famous platform's document, adopted early this morning and which was also reworked this morning. Details on the contents of this important document from Jerome Bastion:

[Bastion] The document reflects faithfully the regular comments and references given throughout the proceedings and it states its loyalty to the principles of the declaration of 1 November 1954 on which the Algerian revolution was declared. This obviously shows the intention of expropriating the official terminology based on the heritage and the legitimity of the war of liberation, as well as countering the regime's accusations of interference and manipulations. But above all, what was expected to stop the bloodbath in Algeria—the main objective of this meeting—is the appeal to desist and the condemnation of violence.

Under a chapter of this document, called Principles, it is stated, I quote, the rejection of violence to reach or maintain power. These terms are normally unequivocal. In the same chapter is mentioned the respect of ethnic, political, and religious minorities, and the transfer of power through universal suffrage.

In the second chapter on the measures that should be taken before the negotiations with the regime begin, the national contract of the Algerian opposition demands that every appeasement measure is to be taken toward the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], the press, and the civilians who are the victims of torture.

Finally, the signatory parties offer a general and unlimited truce as soon as negotiations with the regime begin and as soon as the state of emergency is lifted.

'National Contract' Criticized

LD1301202595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The second meeting in Rome organized by the Catholic Community Sant' Egidio has issued what has been named a national contract. A first reading through what has been reported by news agencies immediately after the end of the meeting leads to the remark that the meeting has not produced anything new regarding the issue of dialogue.

In fact, according to the first information carried by news agencies, the new thing about this document is that the opposition parties that attended the Rome meeting have adopted the views of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] without getting any engagement or concessions from it. The document lays down seven conditions, all of which are common knowledge. These include the release of the leaders of the outlawed FIS and all prisoners. The document also asks the authorities to condemn the killing of journalists, members of security forces, and intellectuals, forgetting that the head of state and the government have repeatedly and openly condemned these crimes. The opposition parties that have attended the Sant' Egidio meeting are trying to lay down theories and find interpretations to establish a distinction between terrorist acts and armed action at a time this armed action has up until now been hitting civilians and unarmed workers. Some of the participants in the

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Sant' Egidio meeting found nothing wrong with falling into insipidity and futility. Ali Yahia Abdennour, Rome meeting spokesman and leader of the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights, who says he condemns the killing of security men and journalists who do not oppose terrorism, is not embarrassed by the killing of the rest of security men and journalists who are against the killing of Algerian citizens.

In addition to the fact that the Sant' Egidio meeting took place outside the homeland, the document that is titled a national contract has no aspect of nationalism apart from its name. A real national contract should take place between the national parties. The Sant' Egidio meetings did not include parties that cannot be ignored in any search for a solution to the crisis.

Opposition Parties, Groups View Rome Meetings

Ait-Ahmed: Regime Behind Attacks

AU1301133395 Hamburg DIE WOCHE in German 13 Jan 95 p 18

[Interview with opposition leader Hocine Ait-Ahmed by Oliver Fahrni in Rome; date not given: "Who Hijacked the Airbus"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite massive disruptive action, leading representatives of all the important Algerian opposition parties once again met in Rome's Catholic community of Sant'Egidio last weekend. They discussed a common strategy for terminating the civil war. In order to obstruct the meeting, the radical Islamist Group GIA [Armed Islamic Group]—or maybe even the Algerian secret service camouflaged as GIA (see interview)—urged Western governments, including Germany, to withdraw their diplomatic personnel from Algiers, threatening attacks, if they failed to do so. The German embassy remained open. A communique issued by the Algerian Government called the meeting in Rome an "attack on Algeria's national sovereignty," threatening to charge the participants with high treason. The participants—ranging from the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) to the leftist feminist Louisa Hanoune—were not to be intimidated: Their platform will continue to pressure the regime around General Liamine Zeroual until the military is prepared to negotiate a transition of power, they said in Rome. On the sidelines of the Rome meeting, Oliver Fahrni talked to opposition leader Hocine Ait-Ahmed, whose "Front of Socialist Forces" came second behind the Islamists in the 1991 elections (that were broken off).

[Fahrni] How are the talks progressing?

[Ait-Ahmed] The atmosphere is very good. We agree on important issues. Everyone wants to stop the unbearable bloodshed immediately, including the FIS. Perhaps we will soon be able to present a common plan on how to end the war and how to organize the democratic transition. I think that the regime will then for the first time have to sit down at the negotiating table with the opposition—so far they have only staged fake dialogues. But time is running out; 40,000 Algerians have been murdered already. The generals have increased repressions, mass shootings are taking place almost every day. Entire regions are bombed with napalm, torture is a common thing—and the radical Islamist groups are answering with ever fiercer terror attacks.

[Fahrni] The hijacking of an Air France aircraft has now even put the conflict onto an international level.

[Ait-Ahmed] Small wonder! The regime has driven virtually all correspondents out of the country. Now the killing is going on behind a wall of silence. That makes the radicals carry out spectacular terror attacks. What is even worse: Wherever information is replaced by propaganda, any manipulation becomes possible. Algeria's political police have already established terrorist units and death squadrons. Former President Boudiaf was murdered by the regime. A bloody attack for which exiled FIS head Rabah Kebir has been blamed was obviously controlled by the military. The same grave suspicion looms over the Airbus hijacking. Shortly before the hijacking, the army withdrew almost all its security forces from the very hot zone around the airport. Maybe they wanted to create a great tragedy to torpedo the opposition's negotiating efforts and get France to support the regime even more unconditionally. For it is only France's firm support, the billions from the World Bank, and the silence of many Western states that are keeping the generals in power.

[Fahrni] Paris and Bonn are afraid of an Islamic republic in Algeria and a domino effect reaching as far as Egypt....

[Ait-Ahmed] That is a completely unrealistic view of things! The West is only tricked by its own imagined picture of Algeria. If the West stopped treating us like underdogs and finally got to know us, it would realize that the generals' repressive policy is paving the way for the Islamists to reach their goal—their only chance to establish the Islamic Republic after all.

[Fahrni] What do you want the West to do?

[Ait-Ahmed] It should defend human rights wherever they are being violated by the generals or the Islamists, stop all military aid, and make economic aid subject to specific conditions. If it helped the democrats achieve a peaceful transition, as the latest statements by French politicians make us hope, the West could see an alternative model to the oriental despotism coming into existence in Algeria—setting an example for the entire Arab World.

Ait-Ahmed Satisfied With Meeting

LD1401170895 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As for the participants in the Rome meeting, satisfaction is naturally the dominant

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feeling now that a political agreement has been reached. Nonetheless, they are aware that there is still a long way to go and many difficulties, not least because of the differences that still separate all these opposition parties. Hocine Ait-Ahmed, president of the Socialist Forces Front, has given his view on this matter.

[Begin Ait-Ahmed recording] Let there be no doubt about it: This is the first time that we, the various parties, have met, each of us having our own political viewpoint. Very often our plans for society actually conflict. Thus, it was essential to show great patience, to be good listeners and particularly to be quite skillful, such that each of us could remain independent in making decisions and having our particular vision of society, yet finding a minimum of agreement, a democratic minimum wage, as it were. This democratic minimum wage can be found both in the framework and in the basic principles that we have always had, that is to say, refusal of violence as a means of taking or keeping power, respect of human rights, the orderly transference of power—all these things are important. But, equally, in the transitional period, we would have liked to try to introduce the greatest [word indistinct] possible. [end recording]

Partisan Activity Condemned

LD1501104795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kamel Rezzag Bara, the president of the national human rights monitoring group, commented on the participation of 'Ali Yahia Abdennour of the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights in the Rome meeting of Algerian opposition parties. He said that the involvement of an organization, defending human rights in politics was a serious precedent.

In a statement to Algerian Radio's Channel Three, he said that there was a serious deviation in the course of the struggle for human rights. He added: We do very much welcome the expression by political opposition parties but we reject the transformation of a human rights league into an opposition party.

Rome Participants Criticized

LD1501222795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2100 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Preparations for the presidential elections were launched today with study days for 13 wilayat in the center of the country whose representatives met in the Club des Pins. [passage omitted] Let us listen to Interior Minister Meziane Cherif, who spoke to Rania Cherif:

[Begin Meziane Cherif recording] The security situation in our country is much improved. We are on the point of wiping out the terrorist violence, and the period fixed for the presidential elections will sound the death knell of all the enemies of Algeria, whether inside or outside the country. [end recording]

[Rania Cherif] The interior minister went on to give a devastating critique of the participants in the Rome symposium:

[Begin Meziane Cherif recording] I would like to consider with you the role that these obsolete politicians want to play: The first of them, who is chairman of a human rights league, who is trying desperately to divert the fight for the right to dignity, for human rights, to a political and partisan fight;

The second, about whom a lot has been said in the last five years, and who, at the time of the 1954 appeal, claimed the right to reflect, and who continued to reflect until last week, since he has just taken up position wholeheartedly for the terrorists and all those who want to destroy Algeria;

The third, who has been absent psychologically and politically since 1948, and who throughout this historic period, each time that Algeria had a hope of recovering its rights and the principles of liberty, would intervene to break the rhythm and distort [detourner] the voice and the movement.

And it is very often forgotten that these people are still living off the finances [tresor] of the FLN [National Liberation Front], which they stole and have misappropriated since the end of the war.

We have a list; we know all of them. They do not even have the decency to keep quiet. For some of them, we know their links with our neighbors who are also trying to destabilize us, but who will be revealed later and their total commitment to the destruction of our country shown. I can say that in spite of all this, Algeria is on its feet and will remain so. [end recording]

FIS Spokesman Comments

AU1701103595 Munich FOCUS in German 16 Jan 95 p 178

[Interview with FIS Spokesman Anwar Haddam by Eva Maria Kallinger in Rome; date not given: "Conditional Yes to Violence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kallinger] You reject terrorism and, at the same time, support the armed political fight. Where do you draw the line?

[Haddam] We cannot prevent the people from fighting for their rights and their constitution. Terrorism does not have an ideological background. Terrorism is terror with which a minority enforces its will by force.

[Kallinger] How far may violence go? Up to hijacking a plane—as the Air France plane recently?

[Haddam] If the hijackers were our brothers, this shows their frustration.

[Kallinger] What do you tell your brothers, if they did this?

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[Haddam] We condemn this.

[Kallinger] And the most recent attacks in front of the mosque in Algeria?

[Haddam] This was the murder of people who had just finished their prayers. Perhaps it was an act of revenge by the establishment because of the talks here in Rome. Here it becomes clear that the contradiction is not between Islam and democracy, but between the entire Algerian society and the military.

[Kallinger] Are you sure that this was done by special units of the government?

[Haddam] Not special units of the government, but special units of the unconstitutional rulers. There is no government in Algeria. The so-called Islamic terrorists were freely elected by the people twice. They would not shoot at their brothers. I get the impression that the military no longer has the situation under control.

[Kallinger] Can the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] bring the numerous Islamic, armed groups under control in case of a political solution?

[Haddam] If the military recognizes the FIS as a party and integrates a broad basis, including our brothers, the leaders of the mujahidin, in the process of political decisionmaking, this would be possible.

[Kallinger] Your colleague Rabah Kebir, who lives in Germany, did not come to Rome. Was he prevented from doing so?

[Haddam] Unfortunately, yes. We hope that this is not the official attitude of the Federal Government, because this would mean that Bonn is against the negotiations in Rome.

[Kallinger] What would an Islamic Algeria be like?

[Haddam] A republic on the basis of the Islamic principles, with the alternation and respect of the various political parties.

Organizations Reject Rome Meeting

LD1501224995 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] With the continued reactions condemning the Rome meeting, the following statement said:

We, the following national organizations: the National War Veterans Organization, the National Organization of Martyrs' Children, the General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA], the National Organization of the War Veterans' Children, the National Union of Algerian Farmers, the National Association of Algerian Students, the Independent Students' Union, and the Algerian Islamic Boy Scouts, meeting on 14 January in the midst of the multitude of the political and security developments witnessed by the country, and in the interest of preserving the 1 November values, the national constants, and the structure of the Algerian state, and to confront the conspiracies hatched against the country and foil the ambushes of previous and present enemies inside and outside the country to hit the people's achievements, and in front of the blood and souls of the Algerians that were shed and sacrificed, we stress our absolute rejection of any form to internationalize the Algerian crisis under whatever cover and by any side.

We adhere to the principle of dialogue as a civilized method to escape out of the dark tunnel, and reach a comprehensive national reconciliation.

We also invite all the sides of the political class, and the active national forces to be prudent, and distance themselves from fanaticism and reactions that do not serve the country's higher interest.

The statement is concluded by this Koranic noble verse that said: In the name of God, the merciful and most compassionate, never will the Jews or Christians be satisfied with thee unless thou follow their form of religion. God the great has told the truth.

We have received other statements condemning the Rome meeting. One was from the Islamic Boumedienist National Front in which they reminded the higher authorities of the need to activate the legal system in accordance with the principle of the law is above all.

For its part, the Algerian National Rally called on the Algerian state and judicial authorities in the country to enforce the legal measures against all those who participated in the Rome conspiracy, [in collaboration] with foreign forces and an illegal dissolved party [Islamic Salvation Front], against the Algerian state and sovereignty of its people.

The rally called on the public prosecutor to open an urgent investigation in accordance with the provisions of Article 40 of the 1989 February Constitution.

As for the Algerian Liberal Party [al-Hizb al-Jaza'iri al-Hur], it expressed its opposition to any dialogue with terrorism, a dialogue that dismantled the unity of the Algerian people by bloody means. The Algerian Liberal Party is opposed to the internationalization of the Algerian crisis, and condemned the Rome meeting.

Alongside all those, the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development appealed to the authorities to adopt protective measures against foreign Judaization that aimed at intervening openly in Algeria's internal affairs.

Haddam Discusses Conditions

AU1601091895 Berlin DIE TAGESZEITUNG in German 14-15 Jan 95 p 3

[Interview with Anwar Haddam, FIS envoy to Rome, by an unidentified correspondent in Rome; date not given: "We Are for a Political Solution"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] [DIE TAGESZEITUNG] You have formally condemned terrorism and, at the same time, justified the "armed struggle for a just cause." Where is the difference?

[Haddam] There is terrorism, which we condemn because it is aimed against innocent people who are not involved in military and police operations. And there is the right of a people to defend its constitutional rights, also by military means. The international community must accept being asked why it maintains diplomatic relations with a regime that has grabbed power by force.

[DIE TAGESZEITUNG] Thus, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] accepts the dialogue. Nevertheless, there are Islamic groups which reject dialogue—such as the GIA (Groupe Islamique Armee—Armed Islamic Group), which certainly uses terrorist means. How do you want to reason with them?

[Haddam] Are you the GIA's press spokesman?

[DIE TAGESZEITUNG] Certainly not.

[Haddam] Then you cannot claim that the GIA rejects dialogue. Nor can you claim that the GIA has a position that is different from that of the FIS.

[DIE TAGESZEITUNG] Do you believe that the rulers are really willing to enter into a dialogue?

[Haddam] We are calling on the military to prove their will for negotiations. Therefore, our President Abassi Madani has formally asked me in a letter to contribute an important demand to the negotiations about a platform of the opposition here in Rome: The FIS leaders must be granted the right to meet with the leaders of all groups of the Mujahidin. Then a global solution must be agreed on, to which everyone adheres. Afterwards we will make a public appeal, calling on all groups to agree to a cease-fire. Only if our brothers, the Mujahidin, are involved, can a cease-fire be achieved. The main question is whether the military are ready for a political solution to the Algerian crisis and whether they are able at all to control their special units, on whose conscience there are 40,000 dead in Algeria. We are for a political solution, and as long as this does not exist, we support the armed struggle to give back the people their sovereignty.

[DIE TAGESZEITUNG] If the FIS relies on negotiations, will it not become the target of radical Islamic groups that reject any dialogue with the military?

[Haddam] We are the target of the army, which is doing everything to silence us.

[DIE TAGESZEITUNG] Ali Belhadj, the best known FIS leader apart from Madani, has publicly said that the goal is the establishment of an Islamic state.

[Haddam] The Algerian people must be given the right to determine themselves which social system they want. No one has the right to deny them this. Here in Rome we agree that the various parties have the right to present their programs and that then the people have the right to make a free decision.

[DIE TAGESZEITUNG] Nevertheless, what do you mean by an Islamic state?

[Haddam] A republic which is based on a multiparty system, on the principle of elections, and on the principle of the separation of powers in order to avoid any kind of dictatorship, be it secular or theocratic—a republic which is based on Islamic principles.

FIS Member Comments on GIA Cease-Fire Proposal

LD1601211395 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the Algerian conflict, the proposal made by the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] to the government to put an end to the war continues to evoke reactions, even if they remain prudent. It is a positive step, affirms a competent member of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. Philippe Rochot:

[Rochot] These thousands of Algerians are demonstrating against the agreement concluded in Rome on Friday [13 January] by the opposition parties, an agreement demanding the release of FIS leaders by the government, a demonstration orchestrated by the authorities, but a demonstration that also shows the hostility of a part of the Algerian people to a possible return of Islamists to the political arena. Because today the GIA is aligning itself on the side of the signatories of the Rome agreement, in an effort to outbid them. It is demanding, for example, that the generals of the coup d'etat be punished; but its demarche is encouraging.

[Begin Rabah Kebir recording, FIS representative in Europe; speaks in Arabic with superimposed French translation] Up till now I have not been convinced that this communique really emanates from the GIA. Nevertheless, if it is authentic, it is a positive point for the success of the work of the Rome conference. In that case there would remain nothing for the authorities to do but to respond to these proposals. The parties present in Rome represent 80 percent of Algerian opinion. The absence of any official reaction is rather an encouraging sign, because it signifies that the Algerian authorities are analyzing the conclusions of the agreement. Nevertheless, it is necessary to bear in mind the program of each faction because, he says, in Islam it is the people that are sovereign. [end recording]

[Rochot] The rallying of the GIA to the Rome agreement at all events is putting the Algerian authorities' backs to the wall. President Liamine Zeroual is of the view that he has already satisfied eight of the 14 measures demanded by the opposition parties, such as putting an end to capital executions, while the FIS leaders, for their part, have not kept their promise of ending the violence.

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'Political Obeservers' Cited on Rome Talks' Results

LD1601225695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Four days after the publishing of the final document that crowned the second Sant' Egidio symposium on Algeria, APS has pointed out that political observers have stressed that the Algerian state in reality has been carrying out all the principles adopted at the Rome symposium political platform, and are asking themselves questions about the fact that political parties under foreign patronage have signed a document carrying principles that most of them had refused to discuss in Algeria.

Analysts who have followed up the two stages of the national dialogue in March and August last year believe, in the light of the published statements and news conferences held by the participating political parties, that the comprehensive dialogue initiated by the head of state, with its framework and its constant elements, does answer the numerous questions asked about the first and second Rome symposiums. The dialogue that has remained open for proposals by the political parties, and the freedom given to these parties to prepare an agenda for the dialogue together with the representatives of the presidency, have effectively reflected the will to seek guarantees for a successful dialogue.

Apart from the principles, which are not open to discussion, agreed upon by most parties, the rest was left open for proposals by the parties, which could have been adopted if participants in the dialogue thought that they were useful. This could have ensured a progress of the dialogue, and in particular, contributed to an end to terrorism.

Issues such as rejection of violence as a means to attain power and remain in it, respect of alternation in power, facilitating multipartism, respect of human rights, and press freedom, have all been observed by the authorities since the convening of the national reconciliation conference. The political community has been invited more than once to take part in the transitional stage institutions with a view to returning to elections, and therefore to enabling the people, sole sovereign, to choose its representatives in all freedom.

The basic task has been saving the nation, and all those who hope to play a role in saving the country are now required to do so. This is their duty.

Transitional Council Member Assassinated

LD1501173195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services has said that between last Thursday and Saturday, its forces have eliminated nine terrorists in Boumerdes, Oran, and Media. The security services added that its forces have recovered a number of weapons following these operations.

On the other hand, the security services have said that citizen Nour Salah, aged 65 years, a member of the National Transitional Council, was assassinated this morning by armed terrorists near his home in Ben Omar in Kuba (in Algiers). The late Nour Salah had formerly occupied the post of public attorney at the Ministry of Justice.

Minister: Elections Challenge 'Enemies of Democracy'

LD1501144095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This morning at the palace of Nations at the Club des Pens, Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif opened a two-day seminar on the preparations and technical organization of the upcoming presidential elections scheduled before the end of the current year with the participation of 13 governors from the central provinces, in addition to the heads of executive departments.

On the proceedings of the morning of the first day our correspondent to the Palace of Nations Abdelkader Djeridi:

[Djeridi] This morning, Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif, the minister of interior, local authorities, environment, and administrative reform opened the first regional meeting on the presidential elections, which will last for two days. This first meeting of its kind, which will be followed by three other regional meetings in Annaba, Tlemcen, and Ourgla, was also attended by the governors of 13 of the central provinces, directors of the executive departments, and heads of organization and public affairs.

Meziane Cherif addressed the audience and stressed the role of the presidential elections due before the end of the current year as was set by the head of state, Liamine Zeroual, namely to firmly establish democracy and to consolidate the future directions of Algeria. Within this context he stressed that the presidential elections acquire an extremely significant role due to a number of considerations.

The minister says:

[Begin Meziane Cherif recording] The upcoming elections acquire an extreme importance and this is due to the following considerations: One. Because it is the first of its kind in the history of independent Algeria and could be compared to the referendum on self-determination when the entire Algerian people put their stakes on their total independence and sovereignty challenging thus the biggest colonial power at the time. It also represents a departure from a painful past. Two. Because it aims to elect the supreme organ in the country represented in the person of the president of the republic, the

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first arbiter of the country. Three. Because it constitutes a challenge to the enemies of contemporary Algeria and the enemies of democracy who encourage terrorism and practice it against the Algerian people on the pure land of Algeria, which had witnessed the greatest revolution in modern history. [end recording]

Meziane Cherif added that the success of the presidential elections will depend basically on the efforts of the local officials being the partners of the state who ensure the continuation of the public utility. [passage omitted]

Journalist at Government Daily Murdered

Abducted, Shot

LD1301221295 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 2130 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just learned that a journalist working for the government daily in Arabic, EL CHAAB, was found shot dead this evening. He was abducted yesterday from his Algiers home by unknown armed attackers. He was the 31st journalist to be murdered in Algeria since May 1993.

Name Reported

LD1401101895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The daily EL-CHAAB has lost one of its sons. The newspaper today announced that journalist Abdelhamid Yahiaoui was found dead yesterday 200 meters from his house in Baraki killed by two bullets to the head and with hands tied. The deceased Abdelhamid Yahiaoui was born in 1961. He joined EL-CHAAB as a proof-reader in 1984. He used to contribute to the editorial side with a number of articles. May God have mercy on him.

Egypt

Reactions to Israeli Report on 'Punishing' Egypt

Musa Hails Peres Statement

NC1401172395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—Commenting on a report by an Israeli media organ on "the existence of a document from the Israeli Foreign Ministry indicating a measure has been taken to punish Egypt," Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said: I heard today and yesterday Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' statement on this issue, objecting to the leaked report from his ministry. Musa said that he takes Peres' statement and not the leaked report or the statements made by certain Israeli Foreign Ministry officials. He noted that Peres' statement on this issue is very good and that he hails Peres on this stance.

Musa said that thinking of punishing Egypt is considered naive and takes us back to the way they used to talk years ago. He said: We hope that the Israeli officials will stop such talk because the term punishment is unacceptable and impractical. He said he considers that this subject is over, as Peres has done and that Peres' statement has more credibility than certain Israeli Foreign Ministry officials, who utter such unacceptable nonsense. Musa noted that he does not consider the published report to be a document but mere hopes entertained by certain people with backward thinking. He said that the talk of Israel punishing Egypt is backward. I think that Peres' statement has settled this talk. He said that when he read the text of the Israeli paper's report he immediately threw it in the trash can.

Press Condemns Israeli Document

NC1601085095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0606 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—The Cairo newspapers today unanimously criticized and condemned the statements, acts, and writings by Israel's leaders, the objective of which—according to Israeli logic—is to marginalize Egypt's role in the region.

These newspapers state that the threat to punish Egypt is ridiculous and startling. It reveals an exaggerated assessment in Israel regarding its capabilities. It also shows Israel's true intentions toward peace.

Under the headline "Why Is Israel Beating the Drums of War?" Ibrahim Nafi', chief editor of AL-AHRAM, says: The Israeli logic defies all essential and basic facts. In addition, the fanatical tone that permeates Israel's words and actions bother Egypt a lot and are a source of much concern regarding the future of the peace process, which Egypt has fought a great deal in order to entrench and push forward.

He points out that this logic became very clear from the inexplicable Israeli policy to expand settlements and the obstacles Israel is using to block the implementation of the Oslo Agreement. It also became clear from Israel's stalling of the peace march with Syria, and finally, through Israeli Prime minister Yitzhaq Rabin's talk about war in the region, which is what returned the Middle East to the old atmosphere everyone had thought dead and gone forever.

The AL-AHRAM chief editor adds in his editorial that it is astounding that this should happen at a time when the peace process only just started bearing fruit and has led to Israel's acceptance in the region and the recognition of its existence. It has also led to an agreement with the Palestinians, the signing of the peace treaty with Jordan, and negotiations with Syria and Lebanon. If Israel's intentions are honest, it could establish peace with all the Arabs.

Ibrahim Nafi' says that a more surprising issue is the change in the Israeli mood. Though this change has taken

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many numerous directions, it has very accurately directed its arrows toward Egypt. The Israeli campaign started a while ago with complaints about the slow pace of the Egyptian-Israeli normalization process, despite the fact that there have been 15 years of peace between the two countries. Israel has conveniently forgotten about its behavior during this period, which cannot exactly be described as conducive to normality between the two countries. He notes in this regard that Israel has ignored the autonomy talks stipulated in the Camp David Agreement, that it bombed the Iraqi nuclear reactor, invaded Lebanon, and of course refused to withdraw from Taba, except after a big court battle which lasted many years. This, of course, is aside from its harsh and inhuman confrontation with the defenseless Palestinian intifadah. Nafi' states that all of these factors kept it impossible for Egypt to have normal relations with Israel. It put the Middle East in an extraordinary situation of invasions, violence, and an arms race of both the conventional and unconventional kind.

The AL-AHRAM chief editor discusses the recent leak to some Israeli newspapers about what they called "The Document To Punish Egypt" which was prepared by the Israeli Foreign Ministry's Political Planning Division. The objective of this document is to marginalize Egypt's role in the region. Nafi' said that the provisions of this document reveal Israel's obsession with flexing it muscles, and flaunting its ability to influence U.S. policy toward Egypt and poison relations between Washington and Cairo, as though it owns the keys to Congress and the U.S. Administration.

He clarifies that the document itself expresses a certain trend inside Israel's elite, who have failed to understand the essence of the peace process—a process that has been supported by Egypt for the sake of a better future for all the people in the region, including Israel.

He ends his editorial by asserting that Israel cannot talk about war and demand cooperation at the same time. In addition, it cannot demand normal relations while simultaneously applying economic pressure. It cannot beat the drums of violence and then ask the Arabs to embrace it in a new Middle East.

On the same subject, the newspaper AL-AHRAM says in its commentary that the intentional leak, as the Israeli papers labeled it, of the Document to Punish Egypt, constitutes a link in the chain, revealing the logic permeating the thinking of the officials in the Hebraic state. This logic does not deviate from Israel's delusions about its abilities, pride, and role. The paper notes that ever since Israel started the political settlement process with the Arab countries, including the rush by some Arab regimes to normalization, it has assumed an attitude of greatness and started behaving as though it is a superpower in the Middle East.

The paper adds that the delusions about its role and abilities did not stop there. The Israeli tune continued to confirm that any Arab party that does not sign a treaty with Israel will be the main loser in the process of building the new Middle East.

The paper expresses its hope that the foolish Israeli statements will provide an opportunity to seal Arab reconciliation, revive joint Arab action, coordinate Arab moves regarding the course of settlement, and stop the rush to normalize relations with Israel. Then, Israel itself will throw all its fabricated delusions and designs in the trash heap before it is forced to do so as a result of Arab solidarity.

The newspaper AL-AKHBAR considers the alleged Israeli "Document To Punish Egypt" a kind of hallucination, demonstrating that those who prepared it have not been living in the last years of the 20th century, or that they have been afflicted by a strange kind of virus that has completely erased their memories. This is the most dangerous disease that can afflict people working in the field of politics and diplomacy.

The newspaper also considers Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements about Israel's readiness to wage all-out war to show the psychology gripping some officials in Israel and pushing them to take action and make statements, the dangers and outcomes of which we believe they are not ignorant and which could affect the course of the peace process.

Mustafa Amin writes in his daily "An Idea" column in AL-AKHBAR that: It is a joke. When Israel threatens to punish Egypt, the Egyptians laugh and mock it. Egypt is not a child whom Israel can threaten by twisting its ear. Reconciliation with Israel does not mean that Israel will become Egypt's guardian and protector. Israel has not grown up all of a sudden to become a superpower, and Egypt has not regressed to a small state that Israel can try to discipline and teach manners to.

Amin adds: When we signed a reconciliation agreement with Israel, we never once believed the day would come when Israel would ask that we be punished as a mother punishes her small child. We believed that reconciliation meant that each of us would respect the other, not that Israel would assume the place of the master and Egypt that of the servant.

He goes on to say: We have always been our own masters, even when Britain was occupying our county, arresting our leaders, and exiling them to the Seychelles, Malta, and Ceylon.

Assembly Committee Views Remarks

NC1601152995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—The People's Assembly Arab Affairs Committee has voiced its regret for the recent Israeli statements against Egypt. The committee described the statements as provocative.

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The committee said in a statement that if Israel has a real desire for peace it should immediately cease such threats and aggressive tendencies, which should be thrown in the trash can as Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said.

The committee held a meeting under the chairmanship of Dr. Tulbah 'Uwaydah today. It discussed the Israeli prime minister's provocative remarks regarding Israel's preparations for war. The committee also assessed the Israeli press reports, which talked about an Israeli plan to punish Egypt because that country, as the Israeli press puts it, is adopting a hostile policy against Israel in connection with the signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, settlements, and normalization.

In its statement, the committee notes that the tremendous efforts being made by Egypt led by President Husni Mubarak to bring the Arab-Israeli views closer and speed up the serious steps so that peace and stability can prevail in the region are an established fact acknowledged by the entire world. The committee said that Israel knows well that Egypt represents the mainstay for peace in the Middle East and that its role cannot be diminished. [passage omitted]

'Fool' Remarks Said Encouraged

NC1701063495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR says a recent report appearing in an Israeli paper on "a plan to punish Egypt" shows that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and his colleagues are living in the past, entertaining illusions that were buried under the sands of Sinai and deep in the Suez Canal after the earthquake of 6 October 1973.

In an editorial appearing in tomorrow's issue, AL-AKHBAR says the absurd Israeli position, irrespective of its motives and reasons, must be confronted by a decisive and unequivocal Arab position to return Israel to its senses, senses it has apparently lost.

The paper says many observers believe that Rabin's tough and threatening tone reflected in recent statements and odd positions stems from the conduct of Arab countries hastening to hold contacts with the Tel Aviv government and expressing a readiness to establish diplomatic relations with Israel or normalize relations with it without precondition.

The paper says this position encouraged Rabin to make his statements, which astonished many Arab circles, especially in Egypt, leading them to promptly denounce Rabin's fool remarks on his country's readiness to launch a large-scale war and its refusal to abandon its nuclear policy.

AL-AKHBAR calls on the Arab League to take a clear position on the member states that rushed to announce relations with Israel or the normalization of relations with it. It says Israel will be the only beneficiary of this, without providing anything to show a sincere desire for peaceful coexistence with the Arab countries.

Israeli Envoy Plays Down Paper

NC1701065995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—Israeli Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan has stressed his country's appreciation of Egypt's role in the peace process and its willingness for this influential role to continue.

In a statement this evening upon arriving in Cairo airport from a one-week visit to Israel, the ambassador said a paper calling for punishing Egypt issued by the Israeli Planning Department of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, as reported by Israeli newspapers, does not reflect Israel's political position toward Egypt. He said this is only a paper written by an employee at the Planning Department and was not adopted by anyone.

He said Israel's position toward Egypt is known. Israel, he explained, is eager to support and promote its relations with Egypt, and the contacts between the two countries are continuing. He said this matter is now over after the explanations of Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Sultan said that Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin is expected in Cairo early next week to attend the meetings of the Steering Committee on multilateral talks, which will discuss the achievements of past rounds of talks and prepare for the next rounds.

AL-WAFD Criticizes U.S., Israel

NC1701114095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—AL-WAFD, the organ of the opposition WAFD party, is asking institutions and corporations in Egypt to carefully and deliberately examine what it has dubbed "the document calling for punishing Egypt," which was recently published by an Israeli newspaper. The aim, it says, is to discover the hidden Israeli doctrine that has become public and has turned into a blatant threat of war.

In an article by Chief Editor Jamal Badawi today, the paper says: We must rid ourselves of some of the pressure of transient inter-Arab discord so that we might realize what the others are plotting against us. Inter-Arab conflicts and divisions, the paper adds, are the biggest prize we can offer Israel so that it will take exclusive control of the Arab arena.

The paper notes that the Arabs' cause with Israel has not reached the end we expected or imagined after the recognition of Israel and signing of peace treaties with it. The paper refers in this regard to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent threat of war.

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The paper criticizes the U.S. Administration's stance in favor of Israel. It says we have found out that the United States is seeking to rearrange the Middle East to create a new situation in which Israel will be the dominant power, keeping its nuclear deterrent force even after the guns have fallen silent and banners of peace have been raised.

The paper expresses astonishment at the U.S. Administration, which considers that it is in Egypt's interest to agree to an indefinite extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Israel cannot be forced to sign. Its nuclear stockpile is hypothetical. According to the United States, Egypt need not fear it.

The paper emphasizes that the Egyptians have not rejected peace, but refuse normalization [with Israel], because, based on their intelligence, their smartness, they cannot imagine normalization between a peaceful nation that has no atomic bomb and a nation possessing an enormous stockpile of weapons of mass-destruction. The paper asks: How can you ask the Egyptian citizen to accept kisses from the Israeli who harbors enmity and evil?

Mubarak, Weizman Discuss Ties, Peace Process

NC1601172895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman this evening. The two presidents discussed bilateral relations and the progress of the peace process on the various tracks.

Israel Grants MFN Treatment to Egyptian Exports

NC1601095195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Ministry sources stated today that Israel has decided to lift Egypt from the list of countries that require import licenses or high customs fees.

The sources said that under this measure, Egyptian exports to Israel will now be accorded most favored nation [MFN] status. The sources added that the Egyptian Economy Ministry has received from the Israeli Ministry of Industry and Trade the text of the Israeli decision, which went into force at the beginning of this year.

Yemeni President, Delegation Arrive on Visit

NC1501094695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0928 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih arrived in Cairo before noon today for a visit to Egypt.

He is being accompanied by a delegation made up of Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahab al-Ansi, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al- Iryani, Industry Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, Planning Minister Muhammad Baqadir, and Petroleum Minister Faysal Sha'lan.

President Husni Mubarak greeted the Yemeni president on his arrival.

Al-Sharif on Talks with Mubarak

NC1501131595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said the meeting that was held between President Husni Mubarak and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih at Cairo International Airport's VIP lounge today focused on the emerging crisis on the Saudi-Yemeni border and on efforts to ease the tension and learn both sides' views to resolve it.

The information minister added that President Mubarak believes that the two countries have an understanding to solve the issue peacefully.

In statements to the press after Yemeni President Salih's departure, the information minister said the aim of the Yemeni president's short visit to Cairo was to brief President Mubarak on developments on the Yemeni-Saudi border so that he can have a clear picture of the situation.

Al-Sharif noted that today's meeting followed previous telephone and other contacts between President Mubarak; King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques; and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

He said the meeting between presidents Mubarak and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih falls within the context of President Mubarak's eagerness to reach a solution to the Saudi-Yemeni border issue through mutual understanding and avoiding any possibility of clashes on the border.

Replying to a question on whether the Yemeni president agreed to a solution to the problem, al-Sharif said President Mubarak was briefed by the Yemeni president on the situation and current developments. He added that Mubarak is eager for a peaceful solution through mutual understanding without further deterioration of the situation.

Al-Sharif was asked whether the talks between Presidents Mubarak and Salih dealt with improving Arab relations. He replied: This meeting was part of efforts to improve inter-Arab relations. He added that President Mubarak's efforts at all levels are designed to resolve Arab differences.

Asked whether Egypt has informed the Saudi side of the outcome of today's meeting between Presidents

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Mubarak and Salih, al-Sharif said: As we know, President Mubarak is in permanent contact and consultations with his brother, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

Replying to another question on whether there are Yemeni demands to solve the border problem with Saudi Arabia, he said President Mubarak knows the Saudi view and he learned the Yemeni view today. He added that this is a step toward achieving an understanding between Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

Mubarak Contacts Saudi, Yemeni Leaders

NC1501202895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held several telephone conversations today with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

He also phoned Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih as soon as the latter arrived in Paris this evening.

The contacts were part of an effort to ease tension between Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

Mubarak Reviews Mediation

NC1701095095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Jan 95

[Rebroadcast of interview with President Husni Mubarak by unidentified correspondents on 17 January on Egyptian Television's "Good Morning Egypt" program; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. President, you held a series of contacts with Arab kings and heads of state and had several other contacts in the past few days. What are the results of your efforts to clear the Arab air?

[Mubarak] There was a problem between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. When military movements took place on the Yemeni side of the border, the custodian of the two holy mosques contacted me and President Hafiz al-Asad. I immediately contacted the Yemeni president and told him that if he has troops there as reported he must withdraw them because he will be engaged in negotiations. I said to him: It would be meaningless if you laid your hand on a piece of land before negotiations commence. We believe that by doing so you would place people before a de facto situation, which is wrong. The spirit and solution and good intentions must exist.

He replied: I will see what can be done. The next morning, I believe, the Syrian president dispatched the vice president and the foreign minister [to Saudi Arabia]. President Hafiz al-Asad told me he had sent so and so [words indistinct]. I told him: It would be good if I, you, or anyone else intervened to facilitate the process, because we want to clear the atmosphere between brothers.

Then President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih told me: "I will visit you on Sunday to discuss the issue" on the way to Paris. He came and we discussed the issue for an hour. I learned his view and told him we must find a solution.

As regards negotiations, I talked to him on his previous visit and when I met with him in Casablanca to begin negotiations to solve the border problem between him and [Saudi Arabia].

Afterward I received a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques and talked to the emissary about the situation. I told him I had contacted President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who was in Paris, and told him there was an opportunity for the two sides' delegations to meet. The Yemeni delegation was set to leave for Saudi Arabia on Saturday but stopped when the skirmishes occurred.

He told me he was ready and I replied: Stop all military provocation and movements and withdraw from the area. When he told me he had withdrawn, I said to him: Then negotiations should begin and you should sit together and resolve the issue. We need resilience to solve the dispute. He said he was willing and that he had halted all measures. Then I talked to the custodian of the two holy mosques and we released a statement saying: The issue is settled, intentions are good, and the two sides' delegations will meet to solve the problem. Our problems in the Arab world are abundant.

Mubarak Receives al-Asad Phone Call on Developments

NC1501132795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad at noon today. They exchanged views on Arab developments.

Al-Alfi Promises Action Against Terrorism

NC1601162295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has affirmed that the coming stage will be crucial and decisive against the stray and corrupt terrorist elements, who are trying to undermine the country's stability and security.

In a speech today marking the Training Day organized by the General Administration for the Central Security Forces, al-Alfi noted that the terrorist elements in Egypt—after the ground had shaken under their feet—have become exposed to the public. They are now trying, very meanly, to make a comeback to give the people at home and abroad the false impression that they still exist

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and that they are mighty, he added. Thus, they hit a defenseless elderly person, an innocent citizen, or a passerby to make an impression on those who pay them, so that they may pay them as much as the blood they shed.

The interior minister stressed that the people back the police force because everybody realizes the dangers resulting from the black terrorism undertaken by a malicious minority of outlaws, who instill panic and terror in the hearts of the people and strike at the march of construction, development, and stability.

Al-Alfi pointed out that the decisions adopted by the Arab interior ministers recently show the determination of the Arab peoples to impose a tight siege on and combat terrorism in the Arab world through a collective Arab action that will prepare the way for ending this plague once and for all.

Explains Security Effort

NC1601194995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has stressed that balanced, planned security measures and the availability of an accurate data base have helped abort a number of the most dangerous terrorist groups. He added that it has been proved that those groups were prepared by foreign guidance and funding and even led by elements directed from abroad, elements that were trained while on the run to carry out extremely serious terrorist operations.

In a statement delivered to the Defense and National Security Committee at the People's Assembly this evening, al-Alfi stressed the need to maintain efficiency in the decisive and comprehensive confrontation against extremism and terrorism and to promote the mechanisms of early monitoring of illegal activity.

The interior minister said that stability and direct and effective contribution to its achievement is the primary aim of the overall security effort at all levels.

He noted important successes in containing the threat of extremism to the general factors of stability and said the initiative is increasingly in the hands of the security services as they work to capture fugitive terrorist groups and undermine new persistent attempts to restore organizational effectiveness at the direct instructions of and support from fugitive leaders abroad.

Al-Alfi stressed that security work, despite the intensity of the confrontation, has not been isolated from basic principles, notably respect for law and the Constitution, concern about society's values and its basic constituents, and commitment to the interests of the homeland.

He stressed the importance of boosting regional and international security cooperation, especially in the area of counterterrorism, to achieve optimal efficiency against the threat to internal security and to besiege and block foreign support and the activity of fugitive terrorist leaders and cadres abroad, who are fully involved in planning, funding, and training and insistently seek to undermine internal security.

Al-Alfi stressed in his statement that while the security, strategic, and temporary objectives have been put into practice, the need for growing coordination with religious, media, and popular establishments have not been ignored. He said the issue of stability exceeds the security dimension and involves the overall political and executive effort in general.

The interior minister explained that terrorism is not a state of extremism in Upper Egypt or a revenge between police and the terrorists, but an international organization aimed at dealing blows to Egypt and the Arab and Islamic countries so that they will come under the control of others.

Answering questions posed by the committee members after he finished his statement, al-Alfi said that investigations and arrests showed that these are hard facts and they proved that foreign sides finance, train, and organize the terrorist operations. He said all state institutions must play a role to combat terrorism.

Paper Hails Government's Refusal To Sign NPT

NC1401214195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2114 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—The newspaper AL- WAFD, mouthpiece of the opposition Wafd Party, has hailed the Egyptian diplomatic establishment which is fighting a fateful battle by refusing to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

In an editorial on Sunday [15 January], the paper calls on Egypt to transform Israel's refusal to sign the treaty into a more comprehensive stance that includes the Arab and Islamic countries so that Israel will understand that it does not have the right to monopolize nuclear weapons in the region while at the same time uttering lies about its desire for peace.

AL-WAFD criticizes Algeria which undercut the Egyptian position by agreeing to sign the treaty.

In conclusion, the paper said it is necessary to be prepared in case Israel continues to refuse to sign the NPT in order not to let it reap the fruits of peace and military superiority at the same time.

Prosecutor Inspects Conditions of Jailed Writer

NC1401195195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—An inspection was conducted by Higher State Security Deputy Prosecutor Ashraf al- 'Ishmawi today to the room where journalist 'Adil Husayn, the Labor Party secretary general, is serving his remand in custody. The

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inspection showed that he is staying in room No. 9, entrance D. The room is on the first floor and four steps lead to it. The area of the room is 6 by 3.5 meters and it has a glass window 2.5 meter long and ½ meter wide. The room has a private toilet separated from it by a wall. The inspection showed that the room has four blankets and two mattresses and that 'Adil Husayn was wearing his own clothes.

The deputy Public Prosecutor said that during the surprise visit made on instructions from Public Prosecutor Raja' al-'Arabi, he found that 'Adil Husayn was in the office of the prison chief Brigadier General 'Adil Bahjat, and was receiving AL-SHA'B chief editor Majdi Husayn. The inspection showed that there were newspapers, magazines, papers, and pens in Husayn's room and a 100- watt lamp. He receives in his prison meals and drinks from his family along with the prison meals. The prison administration allows him five visits a day, each a half hour in length. The prison doctor visits him daily.

Released Islamist Lawyer Interviewed on Arrest

NC1501183895 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 5 Jan 95 p 11

[Interview with "prominent Islamist" lawyer Muntasir al-Zayyat by unidentified AL-SAFIR correspondent in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-SAFIR] You were arrested during protests at the Lawyers Association over the death of lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani [said to have died of torture by investigating officers]. On that day, I asked you for an interview in your office that night. You said: That is, if I go to the office tonight. Did you know that you would be arrested?

[Al-Zayyat] Yes; I was 99 percent sure. Our sources got a tip that there was a decision to arrest a group of lawyers, me included of course. It was a matter of time; would we be arrested before or after the march?

[AL-SAFIR] What is the secret behind this sudden escalation against you, particularly since there was nothing new about you at the time? It was known that you belonged to the Islamic current. Moreover, the Ministry of Interior got in touch with you in connection with what was called "a reconciliation"?

[Al-Zayyat] Until this moment, as I talk to you, I am unable to find a logical explanation for what happened. Some time ago, I met with all the officials in the Interior Ministry, big and small. It became known that I was undertaking efforts to stop the tide of violence. I was in fact trusted to undertake the task. Then the incident involving 'Abd-al-Harith Madani occurred. I had to defend his case for two reasons. The first is ethical, since he worked in my office for two years. The second reason has to do with syndicate work. I am a syndicate lawyer and have my own ambitions in the association. These ambitions made it imperative for me to defend his clear case. But the government believed that my standing on 'Abd-al-Harith's side escalated, or "heated" things up. They even considered me responsible for the events. This is what I have been able to deduce so far. And I believe that this is the reason for the mixup that happened.

[AL-SAFIR] What's the reason?

[Al-Zayyat] It seems that I happened to be in the Lawyers Association's headquarters constantly. I took part in all deliberations among lawyers on how to handle the crisis. I might have been the most outstanding name then, since board members Mukhtar Nuh and Khalid Badawi were ill at the time. The Ministry of Interior thought that my regular presence during the protests was an attempt on my part to escalate matters.

[AL-SAFIR] But your arrest was for other reasons.

[Al-Zayyat] Like what?

[AL-SAFIR] Your joining an illegal secret organization.

[Al-Zayyat] That is a ready-made "cliche" designed to frame people under similar circumstances. All the people east and west are accused of that thing. Even the Muslim Brotherhood were accused in connection with the "Salsabil" computer company case.

[AL-SAFIR] You are accused also of being the link between the leaders of violence inside and outside the country and of coordinating their activity.

[Al-Zayyat] That is absolutely not true. I am in public practice. I know that the security agencies monitor my moves. They bugged my home and office telephones for an entire year and monitored not a single call showing what you say. For some time I have been on the list of persons banned from travel. Every time I traveled, I had to get written permission from the State Security Investigations Bureau, explaining the reason for travel and the destination.

[AL-SAFIR] You were also said to receive donations from abroad and distribute it among the families of the detainees.

[Al-Zayyat] That is not true. I said before that I call on charitable people who have extra money to give it to the families of the detainees. That is something I advocate and find no reason to deny. As for receiving funds, that is absolutely not true. These allegations only seek to distort my image and claim that I belong to a secret organization, even to al-Jihad and the Islamic Group. I am certain that the security agencies know more than anybody that all those are lies, that I do not receive any donations, and that I do not join and am not a member of any organization. All officials have been told this. In fact my selection to undertake mediation was due to two reasons: that I did not belong to any organization and that political groups trusted me. But politics necessitated what happened.

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[AL-SAFIR] Let me ask you about an odd situation you were in before your arrest. You were almost an official public spokesman for secret groups.

[AL-Zayyat] The point is they don't want anyone to speak. If you do, they take you for the official spokesman. That is the weapon they raise against anyone who defends the Islamic outlook, the oppressed, the persecuted, or the detainees. I always deny being an official spokesman for any group, simply because I do not belong to any group. I am an Islamist who advocates the Islamic idea. But this does not please the security agencies. I say that it was the security agencies that started the violence. Everything that happens as a result is counteraction. That is why they say that I am an official spokesman, to embarrass me and distort my image.

[AL-SAFIR] How do you assess the Lawyers Association Council's position toward you? Do you believe that it did everything necessary?

[Al-Zayyat] During my difficulty, the Council rose up to the responsibility. It did much of what it had to do at the different levels.

[AL-SAFIR] You said that you are an Islamist that advocates the Islamic outlook. How do you explain the obvious conflict in the Islamist' position toward the West and America? While Islamic groups declare a verbal war against the West and America and accuse them of hostility to Islam, we hear of contacts between these groups and officials in the U.S. State Department and CIA. Moreover, the West and America give refuge to many Islamist figures.

[Al-Zayyat] The conflict between us and the West is clear. They have their own creed and we have ours. As for saying that the Americans or the West are approaching us to get acquainted with our line of thinking and the issues that might arise if we take power, this does not mean that we are abandoning our principles. As for contradiction, it is they who try to reach us; we are not shut away from the world. All this happens with the knowledge of the security agencies. As for taking refuge in the West, any man is entitled to look for a safe society in which his human, intellectual, and religious freedoms are guaranteed and where he can express his thoughts and beliefs without fear of harm.

[AL-SAFIR] Will you stick to your earlier line of defending Islamic groups or will you review your position in the coming stage?

[Al-Zayyat] If I was wrong, I would quit my wrongdoing. But I believe in my cause. I believe that I am eager to achieve two things: to please God and to avoid breaking the law. God willing, I will continue to defend the oppressed and those who are persecuted because of their views and beliefs. This ordeal has only strengthened my determination and my confidence that I am on the right course. On my way from jail to the prosecution department, I heard the people praying for me. As for those professional politicians in the parties and elsewhere, I never felt that they adopted my case.

Judge Says Saudis Inciting 'Militants' To Kill Him

NC1201122895 Paris AFP in English 1115 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 12 (AFP)—An Egyptian judge has accused Saudi Arabia of inciting Moslem militants to kill him for his moderate views on Islam, and compared his case to that of British author Salman Rushdie.

"Saudi Arabia is trying to play the same role with me as Iran did against Salman Rushdie," Sa'id al-'Ashmawi charged at a press conference late Wednesday [11 January].

He was referring to the death threat hanging over the Indian-born author since it was passed in 1989 by Iran's late leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni for alleged blasphemy against Islam.

Al-'Ashmawi, a former president of the state high security court, said the Moslem Brotherhood in Egypt, at the instigation of the Saudis, was "trying to compare me with Salman Rushdie."

The highest Sunni Moslem authority, Al-Azhar in Cairo, was also backing the Saudis and the fundamentalists by banning several of his books, said the judge.

He charged that Riyadh, fundamentalists in Egypt and Al-Azhar wanted "the elimination of every liberal thinker opposed to their views." They were inciting armed groups to murder liberals through hostile media campaigns.

A fatwa, or religious decree, was issued against him in the late 1970s by the Brotherhood. "After Faraj Fudah and Najib Mahfuz, it's my turn," al-'Ashmawi warned.

Fudah was a secular writer killed by Moslem militants in 1992, while Noble prize laureate Mahfuz was stabbed and injured last October.

Al-'Ashmawi advocates a moderate interpretation of Islam, arguing for example that Jihad as mentioned in the Koran should be used only for self-defence, in contrast to hardliners who say it stands for holy war against non-Moslems.

Morocco

Opposition Parties Vow To Struggle for Changes

LD1301133395 Rabat MAP in English 1248 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Jan. 13 (MAP)—One day after King Hassan II announced his decision to

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abandon for the time being the constitution of an alternative government, three opposition parties Thursday [12 January] underlined determination to carry on struggle for political, economic, social and constitutional changes in Morocco.

In a joint statement they released on the occasion of the 51st anniversary of the independence manifesto, submitted to French colonial powers in January 1944, the Istiqlal Party 'PI', the Socialist Union of Popular Forces 'USFP' and the Organization for Democratic and Popular Action 'OADP' renew their commitment to the historical and civilizational project based on the consolidation of the social and democratic constitutional monarchy with sound and credible representative institutions and a responsible government meeting all conditions of homogeneity, dedication and solidarity.

King Hassan II announced Wednesday that he decided to renounce 'for the time being' to form an 'alternative government' and to appoint instead a cabinet represented by the present parliamentary majority (center-right). The opposition parties refused that the projected alternative government includes Driss Basri, state minister for the interior and information.

The three parties forming a 'Democratic Bloc' (Koutla) which acknowledged that important steps have been covered said they are convinced that the change is unavoidable and insisted they will carry on their struggle to achieve change. The Koutla also paid tribute to the heroic struggle led by the Moroccan popular masses in symbiosis with the throne for the independence of the country and said the next stage of this struggle consisting in building a modern Morocco based on democratic foundations is still to be completed.

USFP Leader Comments on King's Latest Decisions

LD1401205395 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tonight's guest is Mohamed el-Yazghi, acting general secretary of the USFP, the Socialist Union of Popular Forces, an opposition movement in Morocco. As you know, King Hassan II recently decided not to appoint a prime minister from the ranks of the opposition. Mohamed el-Yazghi gave his reaction to our correspondent, Mouna el-Banna.

[Begin recording] [el-Yazghi] There is some disappointment that a changeover by consensus has receded from view. It was what we too had hoped for when we replied favorably to the king's proposal. On the other hand, there is some relief, since we feel that the experience would have to be hedged round with all possible guarantees of success; otherwise, it was better to postpone it and assume that time would be on the side of a genuine changeover.

[el-Banna] Do you see it as a failure?

[el-Yazghi] No, it is not a failure—quite the opposite, since there has been debate and discussion in the country. There was a deeper look at the problems and at the reforms that the situation in Morocco calls for—constitutional and political reforms, as well as economic, social, and cultural programs—all of which is a real gain. All this discussion, I believe, consolidates stability in our country, and consolidates the participation of the Moroccan people in civic affairs.

[el-Banna] In his communique, the king says that the opposition's refusal to keep Driss Basri in his post would be highly damaging to the functioning of two of the country's sacred institutions. What do you think of that?

[el-Yazghi] We found that part of the communique excessive, since, after all, our country has a Constitution that protects our institutions, and the Moroccan people themselves are highly protective in ensuring the continuing functioning of the country's sacred institutions.

[el-Banna] Is it really impossible for you to govern with Driss Basri?

[el-Yazghi] That is not the problem, the problem is elsewhere. The experience of change, which is what the king wanted, requires guarantees if it is to succeed. As long as these guarantees were not forthcoming, it was difficult to join in the experience. Obviously, the issue of the interior minister is part of the whole range of questions that were raised, and that needed to be resolved before further progress could be made.

[el-Banna] Do you think, Mr. el-Yazghi...[pauses] Are you one of those who think that all this was in fact only a maneuver, and that there was no wish to see the opposition come to power?

[el-Yazghi] No, I do not, because for the past two years, the king's intention has been consistently for change—for a change in the country, and a change that Moroccans are also demanding, as they showed in the June 1993 legislative elections. We were ready. We had our program for trying to solve a certain number of very serious problems that the country is experiencing in the economic, social, and cultural spheres, and in its relations with the outside world. Obviously, we do not think it was a maneuver, but rather a different perception of what this phase of changeover by consensus—as we term it—would be, since any genuine changeover of power could only come as the result of a vote by the electorate. [end recording]

King Hassan Receives RNI Leader Ahmed Osman

LD1401131695 Rabat MAP in English 1252 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Jan. 14 (MAP)—King Hassan II of Morocco received in the Royal Palace of Ifrane, 60 km south of Fes, President of the National Rally of Independents (RNI) Ahmed Osman who was accompanied by members of the RNI executive board.

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Osman assumed the office of prime minister in 1972 through 1979 and the post of speaker of the House of Representatives from 1984 to [word indistinct].

King Hassan II renounced in a royal communique circulated Wednesday on forming an alternation government and announced he will constitute a government of the parliamentary majority.

Last October 14 at the opening of the parliamentary year, the sovereign announced his decision to form a government which was to comprise personalities from the opposition and other parties.

Iranian Mining Minister Mahluji Arrives for Talks

LD1601125895 Rabat MAP in English 1222 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Casablanca, Jan. 16 (MAP)—Iranian Mining Minister Hoseyn Mahluji arrived here Sunday [15 January] with a message from Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to King Hassan II.

The Iranian official expressed hope that his visit will pave the way for more steps towards the consolidation of Moroccan-Iranian economic cooperation.

The Iranian foreign policy strives to upgrade Iran's relations with Islamic countries, including Morocco, he said.

Preparation To Extradite Abdelilah Ziad Under Way

LD1301151095 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Interior Ministry has issued the following statement: After an international warrant was put out for the arrest of Abdelilah Ziad, alias Rachid, who is one of the leaders of the armed groups which carried out the criminal attacks in Morocco in August 1994 [in which two Spanish tourists were killed], the aforementioned person was arrested in Germany a few days ago.

Abdelilah Ziad, alias Rachid, was born on 23 March 1958 in Casablanca and was living in France at 10 Rue de Flandre, in Paris. He has had previous convictions and has been sentenced to life imprisonment in absentia by the Court of Appeal in Fes which found him guilty on 30 July 1984 of involvement in the smuggling of weapons and ammunition into Morocco from Algeria. He has received paramilitary training in Tindouf [southwest Algeria where Polisario Front has base].

He has also been arrested in France where he received a seven- year sentence in 1983 for the possession of forged travel documents.

As soon as they were informed of his arrest, the Moroccan judicial authorities started procedures for the extradition of Abdelilah Ziad who will have to stand trial before the Appeal Court in Fes.

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Yemeni Delegation's Visit to Saudi Arabia Postponed

MM1301183795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Reports by Hasin al-Bunyan in Riyadh and Hammud Munsir in Sanaa: "Yemeni Delegation's Visit to Saudi Arabia Postponed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Yemeni official delegation's visit to Riyadh was suddenly and unexpectedly postponed yesterday, moments before the arrival of the delegation headed by Yemeni House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar and including Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani and Deputy Prime Minister and Planning and Development Minister 'Abd-al-Qadir Bajamal. The delegation was scheduled to meet with senior Saudi officials to pave the way for the visit of Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Saudi Arabia.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT sources emphasize that the visit was postponed at the last moment yesterday morning through understanding and consultation between Sanaa and Riyadh, but the sources said that no new date has been set for the visit of the Yemeni delegation. What is decided so far, the sources said, is that the two sides agreed to postpone the visit until a date to be set later.

According to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's information, contacts were held between Riyadh and Sanaa through diplomatic channels in the evening on the day before yesterday on the time of the delegation's arrival which was that the delegation would arrive in Riyadh at noon yesterday, but then sudden contacts held between the two sides yesterday morning, moments before the plane carrying Shaykh al-Ahmar was due to take off for Riyadh, resulted in the postponement of the delegation's visit indefinitely by mutual agreement.

In Sanaa, the Yemeni cabinet, in its weekly meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, expressed the Yemeni Government's complete eagerness to maintain good neighborly relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, preserve security and stability in the region, and do everything to strengthen and enhance the special relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia in the service of their common interests.

The cabinet was briefed on the telephone contact which took place the day before yesterday in the evening between the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

AFP Reports Visit 'To Go Ahead'

NC1301202895 Paris AFP in English 1959 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Jan 13 (AFP)—A high-level Yemeni delegation is to go ahead with a visit to Saudi Arabia called off earlier in the week after a clash on the border, officials from both countries said here Friday [13 January].

They said the visit, originally due for Wednesday, would take place instead on Saturday.

Yemen's parliamentary speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar was to lead the delegation, which includes Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani and Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba-Jammal.

The delegation is to meet King Fahd with the goal of paving the way for a trip to the Saudi kingdom by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, which was originally expected to take place on Sunday, according to officials in Sanaa.

But the plans were disrupted by the border incident on Tuesday and the delegation's visit was called off indefinitely.

The president and King Fahd discussed steps taken to contain the incident during a telephone conversation later the same day, according to Yemen's official news agency SABA'.

Officials in Sanaa said Saudi-armed Yemeni tribesmen occupied a border post in the northeast of the country and hoisted the Saudi flag. A clash broke out with Yemeni border police, who recovered the post and ripped down the flag.

There was no official Saudi comment on the incident.

On Friday, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam met Salih in the Yemeni capital on a mission to heal rifts in the Arab world.

Earlier this month Yemen and Saudi Arabia agreed to halt military movements along their disputed border and pull their forces back from the area, following a series of clashes.

Tension has remained high between the two countries, whose relations deteriorated during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis when Riyadh accused Sanaa of supporting Baghdad.

In Yemen's civil war last year, Sanaa accused Riyadh of aiding southern Yemeni forces in their bid to break away from the north.

Yemen claims sovereignty over three Saudi provinces—Najran, Jizan and 'Asir—assigned to the kingdom under a treaty signed in 1934. Sanaa argues that the treaty expired in September 1992 and is opposed to renewing it.

Saudi Forces Said Massing on Border With Yemen

NC1401165695 Paris AFP in English 1646 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanaa, Jan 14 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia has massed forces near the border with Yemen,

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including warplanes and missile launchers, Arab diplomats here said Saturday [14 January].

They said the build-up, started earlier in the week, and was focused on the Sa'dah and Maharrah provinces on Yemen's northern border.

In Riyadh, Arab diplomats also said the situation on the border was "very tense" on Saturday, following several incidents on the two countries' disputed frontier.

They said a Syrian delegation led by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, which travelled to the Saudi kingdom after visiting Sanaa, was mediating "to defuse the tension."

Officials from both countries said Friday a high-level Yemeni delegation would go ahead with a visit to Saudi Arabia called off earlier in the week after a clash on the border.

They said the visit, originally due for Wednesday, would take place instead on Saturday.

Yemen's parliamentary speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar was to lead the delegation, which includes Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani and Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba-Jammal.

'Sources' Deny Buildup

JN1401202995 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Jan 95

[Report by Faysal Mukarram in Sanaa; from the "Panorama" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] For reasons that are officially unknown, the Yemeni delegation's visit to Riyadh scheduled today has been postponed. Informed sources in Sanaa said the visit of the Yemeni delegation led by Speaker of the House of Representatives Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar is still valid and may take place tomorrow morning.

This is the third time that the delegation's visit to Riyadh has been postponed. The visit was decided after the recent contacts between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the Saudi monarch, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. Its aim is to promote a Yemeni-Saudi rapprochement, restore relations to normal, and pave the way for resolving outstanding border problems.

No official Yemeni information has been received on reported Saudi concentrations on the border between the two countries. However, Yemeni sources at dawn today denied press reports on Saudi military concentrations on the border with Saudi Arabia and considered these reports as an attempt to hinder the rapprochement between Sanaa and Riyadh. The sources said such reports are baseless, warning against exploiting these fabricated reports in an attempt to undermine the sovereignty of the Yemeni Republic and its firm goal of resolving the border problems with Saudi Arabia through brotherly dialogue.

Yemen 'Sources' Say Riyadh 'Stepping Up' Attacks

JN1301122095 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1145 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yemeni political sources yesterday accused Saudi Arabia of stepping up its attacks on Yemeni territory, and launching a flagrant aggression against it on Tuesday and Wednesday [10-11 January].

In a statement to the correspondent of the Iraqi News Agency in Sanaa, the Yemeni sources added that the clashes that took place in northeastern Yemen two days ago [as heard] witnessed large-scale escalation on Wednesday, thanks to the Saudis. It is to be recalled that Saudi troops carried out an incursion deep into Yemeni territory in the northeastern areas of Yemen at dawn on Tuesday.

In a related development, the newspaper AL-THAWRI, which speaks for the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], has revealed that Saudi troops on Tuesday hoisted the Saudi flag on Yemeni territory they captured.

In the 12 January issue distributed in Sanaa, the paper adds that Yemeni troops retaliated by launching a counteroffensive to recapture this territory and bring down the Saudi flag.

The paper indicates the Saudi and Yemeni sides used heavy weapons in the recent battle that killed several persons and wounded others on both sides. In this battle, the paper notes, Saudi aircraft raided Yemeni positions.

The paper further discloses that Yemeni Prime Minister 'Abd-al- 'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani initiated a telephone call to Saudi Minister of Defense and Aviation Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz on 10 January. Nonetheless, the Saudi official demonstrated intransigence, the paper says.

Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was scheduled to visit Saudi Arabia for this purpose this week. Nonetheless, the recent Saudi regime's moves to (?heighten) the tension have rendered the visit unlikely at present. Yemen seeks to regain the territories Saudi Arabia annexed in accordance with the al-Ta'if Accord signed in 1934, and which expired in 1992, and whose renewal is opposed by Yemen. Moreover, Yemen seeks to regain the territories the Saudis have seized over the past years along the northeastern Yemeni-Saudi borders under the pretext of building roads for Yemeni tribes and erecting observation posts to bring smugglers under control.

King Fahd Holds Telephone Talks on Border Situation

LD1601132595 Riyadh SPA in English 1244 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Jan 16, SPA—Within the framework of the ongoing efforts to contain the extraordinary situation at the borders zone between the

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Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Yemen, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak made several contacts with custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz during the recent hours. Moreover consultations were made between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, President Mubarak and custodian of the two holy mosques in addition to the talks made during the stop of the Yemeni president on Sunday [15 January] in Cairo and the contacts made after his arrival in Paris, Egyptian television quoted an official Egyptian source as saying.

The source added:

Such contacts have led to an agreement and accordingly the Yemeni side will stop any military movements that could lead to a change in the military positions at the border zone between the two countries. This agreement (?should) ensure the avoidance of any kind of harassment and provide opportunity to start consultations and contacts between the two fraternal countries so as to review the crisis within a framework of proper understanding of its dimensions.

Egypt Holding Contacts on Saudi-Yemeni Situation

NC1501084195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that Egypt is currently holding contacts on the situation between Saudi Arabia and Yemen to ease tension in this region.

Before leaving for Morocco today to attend the Jerusalem Committee meetings, scheduled to open 15 January, Musa added that high-level meetings will be held very soon to discuss this issue.

Salih: No 'Yemeni Buildup' on Saudi Border

JN1501203595 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The French newspaper LIBERATION conducted an interview this evening with brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic [words indistinct] in which the brother president noted that his visit to France [words indistinct] President Francois Mitterrand and the French Government and people in view of France's position on the Yemeni ordeal that was caused by the agent secessionists. The position of the French president and government was positive on the level of the United Nations and all other levels in support of unity and democracy.

Asked whether there is tension between Yemen and Saudi Arabia and about reports of military buildups between the two sides, the brother president said: [words indistinct] the brothers in Saudi Arabia on the border. This is the outcome of cumulative reasons because of the border issue. However, efforts are being made by the leaders of the two countries and the Arab brothers, [words indistinct] and there is no buildup on the part of the Yemeni Republic. The buildup is the work of the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and we look forward to [words indistinct] the Syrian brothers as well.

On the upcoming visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the brother president said: The visit is scheduled to take place, but we hope that the incident—which we consider accidental—will not obstruct the visit. There is a high-level committee between the two countries to prepare for the visit to make it succeed.

[Words indistinct], the brother president said this tension was the result of an accidental incident. [Words indistinct] this Yemeni group was loyal to the rebels who had attempted to declare secession. After the failure of secession, they sought refuge in Saudi Arabia, and a few days ago, they hoisted the Saudi flag deep into Yemeni territory. Consequently, a clash took place between them and a Yemeni patrol at the time when a Yemeni committee, led by Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, was about to leave Sanaa for Riyadh to prepare for our forthcoming visit to Saudi Arabia. This incident has caused tension and prevented [words indistinct] the committee [words indistinct] tension [words indistinct] within the framework of peaceful dialogue according to which the problem of the borders was worked out between Yemen [passage indistinct].

Views Border Incidents, Saudi Ties

JN1601183495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1735 GMT 16 jan 95

[Interview with Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Ahmad Birru in Paris on 15 January—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Birru] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, on your way to Paris you stopped in Cairo and met with President Husni Mubarak while reports mentioned large Yemeni and Saudi troop concentrations on the joint borders between the two countries. Will President Husni Mubarak mediate between you and Saudi Arabia after being informed of your stand on what is taking place?

[Salih] I stopped in Cairo, met with President Husni Mubarak and briefed him on what is taking place in Yemen, this thing which we regret, this tension that has been created between Yemen and the brothers in Saudi Arabia, which we did not want to happen. I briefed President Husni Mubarak, and he is continuing his efforts with the brothers in the kingdom. God willing, this temporary crisis will be contained, a crisis through which some have tried to obstruct all the efforts that had been made between us and the leadership in the kingdom, with King Fahd, to open a new page and forget the past state of affairs which prevailed in our relations since the Gulf war and the tribulation brought about by

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the war with the secessionists. President Mubarak understood this situation and pursues his efforts with the brothers in the kingdom. We have also made efforts with the brothers in the kingdom to contain what has happened.

[Birru] When will you and King Fahd hold a summit?

[Salih] The truth is that it could have taken place during the the past weeks. But, there are some forces, local or regional, which have no interest in rapprochement and solving bilateral problems. They sought to exacerbate the situation. There was a ranking Yemeni-Saudi committee ready to prepare for this meeting and to discuss the best way to definitively solve the Yemeni-Saudi border problem in a manner that would safeguard the two fraternal countries legitimate rights. The solution was to be found through dialogue and understanding and without any tension. However, some on this land thrive on tensions in the local, regional, and international arenas. We reject tension, violence, and the use of force because the Yemeni homeland suffers from many and diversified problems, particularly after emerging from the war exhausted. The secessionists wasted huge sums of money to fragment the homeland. We tried to forget the past and open a new page in our relations with the neighbors in Saudi Arabia.

[Birru] The parties which exacerbate the situation—are they local parties or from outside?

[Salih] They may be local parties and assisted, perhaps, from outside, whether intentionally or not.

[Birru] Mr. President, France is the first Western country you have visited since the end of the Yemeni war. Does this have any special significance?

[Salih] The truth is that this visit has a special significance as a result of the distinguished French stand represented by its support for Yemeni unity and for democracy in Yemen. So, we had to return this favor to the French leadership, government, and people.

[Birru] During this brief visit, you will hold talks with officials, of course led by President Mitterrand, as well as the ministers of industry and foreign trade. You will also meet with businessmen and heads of oil companies. This means that there are numerous projects being discussed. What are the most important projects to which you hope France will contribute?

[Salih] In fact, we are explaining the Yemeni investment law to the French government and businessmen. It is a new law which gives all facilities to investors in Yemen. There are numerous opportunities. Investment can be increased. Some companies are operating in Yemen, (?such as) Total, Elf, and other companies, within the investment law. We will explain this matter. There is constant economic cooperation between us and France. We must discuss the promotion of this cooperation.

[Birru] You will meet with the French Army's chief of staff, General (Loungsat). Are there expected arms deals?

[Salih] For our part, we are not looking for arms deals. We are a peaceful state. We are looking for solutions to the economic situation, which is our major concern. We do not have military concerns at present.

[Birru] What will you do to convince and encourage Arab and foreign investors to go to Yemen? Have the post-war circumstances that you promised after the democratic elections become available?

[Salih] Yes, we believe there are available opportunities, especially after the new government announced its program and adopted privatization decisions, especially in the public sector which proved its failure. We in the region had been influenced by communism, which proved its failure, together with the controlled economy. There are privatization measures in the public sector. The government has adopted several decisions in this regard. We will explain.

[Birru] Have the reconstruction, reform, local government, and other administrative reforms programs been actually launched?

[Salih] They have been actually launched. We have a committee entrusted with reconstructing what was left behind by the totalitarian regime after 27 years in power, as well as the residues of colonialism and the imamate era. There is a committee entrusted with the reconstruction, specifically, of what was damaged during the war. As for the local government, there is an orientation to enact legislation by the Parliament to organize local government. However, it should be noted that we have gradually started some local government measures, such as the temporary appointment of commissioners, directors, and governors from governorates, until there is a law for local government election. This was started after the war.

[Birru] Regarding the Yemeni Army, there was a complaint in the past about the existence of two armies, two states, etc. Has the Army been merged into one army?

[Salih] Among the most important post-war achievements has been the national merging of the Army.

[Birru] Regarding the new political equation in Yemen, there is a coalition and a convention between the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG]. The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] has been excluded, although it has been reorganized. There are also fears of the growing role of the YRG. It is even being said that some GPC quarters are complaining about this?

[Salih, laughs] In fact, it is the YSP which excluded itself when it declared rebellion and secession. There is no coalition between the GPC and YRG against the YSP. The YSP has excluded itself, by itself. It is undergoing a process of reorganization. It is exercising all its political

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rights within the framework of the Constitution, law, freedom of expression, freedom of the press, and other legitimate means. As for the YRG and GPC, they have not coalesced against anybody. However, within the framework of democracy, when a party does not have a majority in Parliament and (?wishes) to form a government, it must coalesce with another party. Therefore, the GPC formed a coalition with the YRG to form a government after the war.

[Birru] Regarding the Socialist Party, you have issued a general amnesty for those who took part in the war, except for those who led the secession. Later, positions were revealed concerning amnesty for all. It seems that there are differences among the authority's parties concerning this subject.

[Salih] This was misunderstood. The amnesty was for all those who were deceived and those who directed their weapons at unity and legitimacy. This was the general amnesty. As for the 16 persons [words indistinct] they were not included in any new decision concerning their return. But we welcome the return of other leaders of the Socialist Party [word indistinct] most of the leaders. If these 16 persons want to return to the homeland and face trial—and they will have the right to have Yemeni, Arab, Muslim, or foreign lawyers—we will give all assurances, and they have the right to [word indistinct].

[Birru] Some countries supported Sanaa during the war, some others expressed reservations, and other countries made steps in support for the secession. How are the relations between Yemen and the Arab countries at present?

[Salih] In fact, we do not want to open new wounds. We turn the pages of the past. We highly appreciate all those who stood beside unity. We also highly appreciate those who supported secession because those who supported secession are the ones who correct the unity march [sentence as heard].

[Birru] Does Yemen wish to join the Gulf Cooperation Council?

[Salih] In fact, we welcome any Arab grouping within the framework of efforts aimed to realize Arab unity or full Arab gathering. We in the Arabian Peninsula states think that if there is a desire by the brothers to have a cooperation council that includes the peninsula and Gulf states, then we do not mind.

[Birru] It has been recently noted that there is a Yemeni diplomatic efforts in the Arab and regional arenas. You visited, Morocco, Egypt, Sudan, and Eritrea. You have mediated between Sudan and Eritrea. Are going to mediate between Egypt and Sudan, for example? Does Yemen aspire to play a regional role?

[Salih] We make modest efforts from which we do seek no reputation. We make these modest efforts in order to maintain security, stability, and peace in the world. We want the people to direct their efforts toward development rather than tension, armament, conflict, and disagreement. We made efforts, and I discussed this subject with the brothers in Sudan and with President Mubarak. I discussed with them solving pending bilateral problems between Sudan and Egypt and the problems between Eritrea and Sudan. We found understanding, and we will continue our modest efforts. This depend on the parties themselves. Whoever the mediator is, if they have a desire, then it will be possible [words indistinct]. If there are advance judgments from any party, then we will not be able to do anything.

[Birru] What about relations between Yemen and the rest of the regional countries, such as Iraq and Iran? Some say these relations are relations between allies, especially since Iran—the same as Iraq—was accused of assisting you during the war. [words indistinct]

[Salih] In fact, this is part of the campaign against Yemen. Iraq is looking for assistance for itself. It did not offer Yemen any assistance during or after the Gulf war. We are looking for ways to extend any assistance to Iraq. In fact, we have been able to extend a quantity of wheat [words indistinct] the problems they suffer. As for Iran, it did not extend any help to us. We welcome good relations with all countries. It is not a condition that relations should be based on interests. It is possible to exchange interests with a certain country while others cannot offer anything. However, distinguished relations can be established in other fields, such as the cultural and political fields.

[Birru] In light of the peace process in the Middle East and the ongoing process of normalization with Israel, Israeli figures began to visit Arab states and are taking steps to normalize relations with them. Are you ready to receive Israeli officials or to take such steps with Israel?

[Salih] We stand in solidarity with our brothers in the Arab homeland, especially with the confrontation states that share borders with Israel. As far as we are concerned, there is nothing that forces us to discuss relations with Israel. It is a long way from Israel to us.

As for countries that are making contacts with Israel or are holding discussions with it, every independent and sovereign state has the right to hold discussions within the framework of its interests. However, in our Yemeni point of view, we were hoping that discussions of Arab relations with Israel take place within one framework. This is especially so since Israel is still not abiding by its commitments toward the peace process, continues to occupied southern Lebanon, kills innocent citizens, is still occupying the Golan Heights, and is still not fulfilling its obligations toward the peace process. Therefore, it is hard for us discuss this issue with Israel, on relations and things like that.

[Birru] What is your view about establishing a new Middle East—perhaps later on—that includes Israel, which has expressed its willingness to join the Arab League?

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[Salih] It is too early to discuss this issue.

[Birru] Thank you Mr. President.

Salih Regrets Border Incidents

JN1601065395 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0505 GMT 16 Jan 95

[Interview with Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Ahmad Birru in Paris on 15 January—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Birru] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, on your way to Paris you stopped in Cairo and met with President Husni Mubarak while reports mentioned large Yemeni and Saudi troop concentrations on the joint borders between the two countries. The meeting was devoted to the discussion of this issue. Will President Husni Mubarak mediate between you and Saudi Arabia after being informed of your stand on what is taking place?

[Salih] I stopped in Cairo, met with President Husni Mubarak and briefed him on what is taking place in Yemen, this thing which we regret, this tension that has been created between Yemen and the brothers in Saudi Arabia, which we did not want to happen. I briefed President Husni Mubarak, and he is continuing his efforts with the brothers in the kingdom. God willing, this temporary crisis will be contained, a crisis through which some have tried to obstruct all the efforts that had been made between us and the leadership in the kingdom, with King Fahd, to open a new page and forget the past state of affairs which prevailed in our relations since the Gulf war and the tribulation brought about by the war with the secessionists. President Mubarak understood this situation and pursues his efforts with the brothers in the kingdom. We have also made efforts with the brothers in the kingdom to contain what has happened.

[Birru] When will you and King Fahd hold a summit?

[Salih] The truth is that it could have taken place during the the past weeks. But, there are some forces, local or regional, which have no interest in rapprochement and solving bilateral problems. They sought to exacerbate the situation. There was a ranking Yemeni-Saudi committee ready to prepare for this meeting and to discuss the best way to definitively solve the Yemeni-Saudi border problem in a manner that would safeguard the two fraternal countries legitimate rights. The solution was to be found through dialogue and understanding and without any tension. However, some on this land cannot but thrive on tensions on the local, regional, and international arenas. We reject tension, violence, and the use of force because the Yemeni homeland suffers from many and diversified problems, particularly after emerging from the war exhausted. The secessionists wasted huge sums of money to fragment the homeland. We tried to forget the past and open a new page in our relations with the neighbors in Saudi Arabia.

[Birru] The parties which exacerbate the situation are they local parties or from outside?

[Salih] They may be local parties and assisted, perhaps, from outside whether intentionally or not.

Damascus Reports Joint Saudi-Yemeni Statement

JN1501213095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 15 Jan 95

["Joint statement" issued in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and Sanaa, Yemen on 15 January]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a noble initiative from His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic and as a result of the talks held by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in the Yemeni Republic and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the tension witnessed recently in the border regions between the two fraternal countries has been contained in a spirit of Arab and Islamic brotherliness. Agreement has been reached to return to the previous situation and not to resort to the use of force.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Yemeni Republic express their thanks to the brotherly efforts made by the Syrian Arab Republic to remove the tension. They also look forward to resuming the bilateral talks to resolve their outstanding border problems. At the same time, they express their determination to provide an appropriate atmosphere for the success of the bilateral negotiations and the return of their relations to normal, in a spirit of understanding, brotherliness, and good-neighborliness and in a manner that guarantees enhancing security and stability in the region.

Tension at Yemen Border 'Contained'

LD1501214795 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2115 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 15 Jan—At the graceful initiative of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria, and as a result of the talks held by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in both the Yemeni Republic and the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the tension recently witnessed by the border areas between the two fraternal countries has been contained in a spirit of Islamic and Arab brotherhood, and an agreement has been reached to restore the situation to what it was before and not to resort to the use of force.

While expressing their thanks for the fraternal efforts made by the Syrian Arab Republic for removing this tension, the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Yemeni Republic are looking forward to resuming bilateral talks between them to resolve the pending border problems between them. At the same time, they express their determination to provide the adequate atmosphere for

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the success of bilateral negotiations, and for the normalization of relations between them in a spirit of understanding, brotherhood and good-neighborliness so as to ensure the strengthening of security and stability in the region.

Riyadh Cites Accord To Cease Yemen Military Movements

LD1501224895 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2215 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 15 Jan— According to a broadcast by the Arab Republic of Egypt Satellite Television, an official source of the Arab Republic of Egypt has said the following:

Within the framework of the efforts aimed at containing the situation along the border between the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Yemeni Republic and within the framework of the Arab family, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak made several contacts with the Servant of the Two Holy Places, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, over the last few hours. Consultations have also been held between President Hafiz al-Asad, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and the Servant of the Two Holy Places, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, in addition to the talks held during the Yemeni president's stopover in Cairo this afternoon and the contacts made after his arrival in Paris.

Agreement has been reached on Yemen's commitment to cease any fresh military movements that may change the status of the military posts along the border between the two brotherly countries. This is in order to avoid any provocation and to provide an opportunity for the commencement of consultations and contacts between the two brotherly countries to discuss the crisis within the framework of a true understanding of its dimensions.

Saudi Arabia, Yemen Agree to Contacts on Border Situation

NC1601061795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 jan (MENA)—A responsible source has stated that as part of the efforts being made to contain the emerging situation on the borders between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Yemen and within the framework of ties within the Arab family, President Husni Mubarak held several telephone calls with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, in the past few hours. Consultations also took place between President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and King Fahd along with the talks held during Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's stopover in Cairo at noon today and the contacts held after his arrival in Paris today.

The source said that agreement was reached on stopping any military movements by Yemen that might change the situation at the military points on the borders between the two fraternal countries and to avoid any military provocations. Consultations and contacts will begin between the two countries to discuss the crisis within the framework of sound understanding of its implications. The source said that positive steps are expected to be taken in this respect by both countries.

Situation on Yemeni Border Said 'Reassuring'

MM1601130795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Hasin al-Bunyan and Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Extensive Efforts To Contain Situation on Saudi-Yemeni Border"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, Damascus, London, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Extensive contacts and consultations continued yesterday in Riyadh and Cairo with a view to containing recent incidents on the Saudi-Yemeni border and eliminating the tension. [passage omitted]

In Riyadh, Syrian efforts continued for the third day to calm the situation on the Saudi-Yemeni border.

Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam's suite in the Conferences Palace in Riyadh turned into an operations room. The suite witnessed yesterday a four-hour meeting which brought together Khaddam, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Faruq al-Shar'.

And the Syrian delegation made urgent contacts with Damascus, Sanaa, and Cairo in the presence of Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who spent nearly the whole day in the Conferences Palace.

Well-informed sources stress that the visit to Riyadh by a Yemeni delegation headed by Yemeni House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar is awaiting the results of the Syrian and Egyptian contacts.

Well-informed sources say that the military situation on the Yemeni-Saudi border is reassuring, and there are no indications inspiring concern. The sources described the reports of some media services as exaggerated.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Yemeni delegation is awaiting a signal to go ahead with the visit to Riyadh. A Yemeni source in Sanaa has said that "there is hope that the Yemeni delegation's visit to Riyadh will take place, possibly today."

Yemeni Ambassador to Cairo Ahmad Luqman has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that President Salih's visit to Cairo was short, but it reflected the depth of the relationship and its importance—which proves there is nothing to prevent such meetings from being held, and also Yemen's keenness to make contacts with its brothers in the region. On the Yemeni president's awaited visit to Saudi Arabia, he said: It is linked with the results of the proceedings of the Yemeni committee which will go to Riyadh. However, we reemphasize that there is nothing

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to prevent this visit or the resolution of the border question with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Especially as it was announced in the government's statement and at the Shura Council that Yemen is eager to solve this question in a manner that guarantees the two parties' historic and legal rights. And that Yemen also cares about relations with the neighbors, in particular Saudi Arabia.

Hadi: Border Situation 'Stable', 'Improving'

JN1601175795 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice President brother Major General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi met this morning with a number of political and social figures as well as leaders of political parties, groups, and popular and professional organizations. The brother vice president briefed them on the latest developments on the national scene and the efforts that have been exerted by the brothers in Syria and Egypt to remove the tension that arised on the Yemeni- Saudi border. He indicated that those good efforts resulted in an agreement on resolving the pending problems by peaceful and brotherly means and through the activation of bilateral committees, respecting neighbors' rights, and refraining from resolving problems through tactical ways which might affect the historical ties between the children of the two brotherly peoples in the Republic of Yemen and Saudi Arabia, who are bound by ties of brotherhood, kinship, and neighborhood.

The brother vice president described the current situation on the border as stable, noting that matters are improving after the recent tension on the border area between the two neighboring countries. He explained that the Yemeni political leadership is quite eager to avoid any escalation between the two sisterly countries, and that it seeks to devote itself to the mission of building the homeland. [Words indistinct] the plot of secession, something which requires the Yemenis to mobilize all resources to achieve their aspirations.

At the conclusion of his remarks, the brother vice president praised the stands of the political and social figures and the leaders of political parties and groups [words indistinct].

For their part, the attendees expressed appreciation for the political leadership's endeavor to resolve problems between the two countries through peaceful means and brotherly dialogue. They underlined the shared responsibility of all the people's sectors and nationalist forces toward all national issues.

Saudi Defense Minister Briefs Cabinet on Border 'Violations'

LD1601204395 Riyadh SPA in English 2013 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Jan 16, SPA—Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, minister of defense, aviation and inspector general who presided over the weekly regular session of the Saudi cabinet at Yamama Palace in Riyadh on Monday [9 January] afternoon, briefed it on the latest developments of tension, which emerged at the Saudi-Yemeni borders.

The briefing to the Cabinet was in response to directives of custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz in this context, said Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir after the session in a statement to SAUDI PRESS AGENCY.

In his briefing, Prince Sultan said intensive contacts had been undertaken at the highest levels between the two countries to purify the atmosphere and create a common ground to settle the borders disputes through amicable and brotherly means. "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had been surprised on Tuesday [10 January] at dawn by Yemeni violations inside the Saudi territories, a matter that generated astonishment and protest. Subsequently, urgent contacts were initiated as the kingdom asked the Yemeni brothers to return to their original positions at once."

Prince Sultan said "brothers of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states, Egypt and Syria were notified on the regrettable situation. And Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad took the lead and delegated Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to Sanaa and Riyadh where they exerted successful efforts in this connection as illustrated by the Saudi/Yemeni joint statement which confirmed that matters were normalized and the use of power has been renounced. The statement also emphasized a common desire for resumption of bilateral talks to settle the pending borders problems with the aim of normalizing ties in the framework of the spirit of brotherhood and good neighbourhood.

Prince Sultan also cited with appreciation the efforts made by the Egyptian President Husni Mubarak who made telephone calls with King Fahd and met with the Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to help in defusing the tension and maintain peace and stability between the two countries. He thanked the Syrian and Egyptian leaderships and people for the welfare and fruitful efforts to settle the tension. He said it has been verified that articles of the agreement between the Kingdom and Yemen have been implemented.

Prince Sultan has categorically denied reports carried by some media means about a Saudi military build-up along the borders between the two countries and made it clear that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, out of its constant policy, would not seek escalation of matters and prefer to settle the dispute through brotherly and amicable means without abandoning the national rights and without violating rights of others as stipulated by the Islamic teachings.

Al-Sha'ir said then, the cabinet reviewed the latest and most important Arab and international developments

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led by events in Chechnya, Bosnia and Afghanistan as well as the situation in the Lebanese arena.

It also reviewed a number of domestic items on the agenda and referred some of them to the general committee of the council for further study.

The cabinet authorized the general president of the youth welfare or whom-so-ever he might delegate to initial an agreement of cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Korea on youth and sports affairs. It said the original and signed copy of the pact could be submitted for completion of regular procedures.

It also authorized HRH the general president of the youth welfare or whom-so-ever he might delegate to initial a similar agreement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Argentina.

The council approved appointments to the 15th grade at the girls education general presidency in Makkah region.

Bahrain

Sources Report 1 Dead, Several Wounded in Clashes

NC1301144795 Paris AFP in English 1404 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Nicosia, Jan 13 (AFP)—One person was shot dead and several wounded in fresh clashes between demonstrators and security forces in Bahrain, witnesses and diplomatic sources said Friday [13 January].

The sources, contacted by telephone from Nicosia, said the clashes took place Thursday [12 January] in the mostly Shiite villages of al- Diraz, Jamrah, Abu Saybi', Barbar, Jidd Hafs and Sanabis, on the road to al-Budayyi', northwest of Bahrain.

It was the worst violence since protests broke out in the Gulf emirate in December after the arrest of a prominent Shiite cleric, the sources said.

Diplomats and witnesses said the Bahraini security forces opened fire with real bullets and were backed by a Saudi anti-riot unit. The dead man was named as 25-year-old Muhsin al-Fatalawi. [passage omitted]

Reports of Riots 'Distorted'; 150 Detainees Released

MM1301153495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, AL-HAYAH—AL-HAYAH has learned that more than 150 people held in custody pending investigation in connection with recent riot incidents in the country have been released over the past few days.

The sources stressed that the security situation is stable and trade operations were not interrupted, nor have government departments closed, even for a few hours last month.

The sources added that the number of detainees reached 400 at one point, and the extensive security presence proved useful in boosting confidence and averting riot operations.

The Bahraini Government sources said that contacts are being made with friendly states to explain the true situation. "The reports carried by some media services, especially AFP and French radio stations, were far from the truth and distorted the reality, since they carried false daily reports of thousands of arrests and scores of casualties—which did not happen at all. In fact it is almost impossible in a small country like Bahrain." The sources added that "the media relied on sources outside Bahrain fed by foreign quarters seeking to undermine security in the region." [passage omitted]

Opposition Official on Demands, Affiliation

JN1301144895 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Mansur al-Jamri, information official for the Movement of the Free Men of Bahrain, Harakat Ahrar al-Bahrayn, by Salah Salamah on 13 January; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Jamri] What happened yesterday is what the opposition had anticipated. The government refused to hold a dialogue with the nationalist figures who went out to defend the people's legitimate demands. Last Friday [6 January], a number of young men and women assembled before the U.S. ambassador's residence in al-Muqsha' village. They were beaten up. Since then, demonstrations have continued every night. Yesterday night, more demonstrations were held. They started in Sanabis, Jidd Hafs, 'Ali, and Karzakkan at 1830. Two hours later, demonstrations were staged in other areas. I can confirm that demonstrations were staged in all the villages of the northern area, al-Bilad al-Qadim, and some districts in Manama and Sitrah to demand the revival of the Constitution, the restoration of parliamentary life, and the release of political prisoners, headed by Shaykh 'Ali Salman, who was detained on 5 December. This is the reality of the demands. It is a peaceful, constitutional move demanding the revival of the Constitution, which was suspended in 1975.

[Salamah] Dr. Mansur, what political forces are leading this opposition movement in Bahrain? Is it specifically a fundamentalist Islamic or a general popular move?

[Al-Jamri] In fact, the move is a general popular one. It made itself clear through a petition it submitted two years ago. However, the government did not respond to that petition, which called for the revival of the Constitution and the Parliament. There was another petition

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adopted by 14 Shiite and Sunni personalities. Of those who adopted the petition, the number of Sunnis was double that of the Shiites. That group constituted Islamic, liberal, and secular personalities. The petition was signed by 20,155 citizens. This is higher than the number of voters in 1973, which did not exceed 17,000.

[Salamah] Dr. Mansur, do the Bahraini opposition forces have supporters outside Bahrain, specifically in Iran?

[Al-Jamri] Iran does not have any role. Indeed, there are Shiites in Bahrain. The Bahraini Shiites' relationship with Iran is like that of the Catholics with the Vatican. This is the limit of the relationship. If you cannot accuse every Catholic of being an agent for Italy and the Vatican, you cannot accuse a Shiite of being linked to Iran simply because he is religiously linked to a religious institution in Iran. There is no political relationship with any foreign quarter. The movement is a domestic one. The opposition is domestic. It declared itself and went out onto the streets. There is no political relationship with any other state.

[Salamah] Dr. Mansur al-Jamri, thank you for this interview.

Shiite Areas 'Tense' After Clashes, Arrests

NC1401170195 Paris AFP in English 1608 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 14 (AFP)—Shiite Moslem areas of Bahrain were tense Saturday [14 January] after security forces arrested 48 people in clashes at the funeral of a demonstrator, the Gulf state's exiled Islamic opposition said.

The 48 people were from the mainly Shiite village of al-Diraz, where 'Abd-al-Qadir Muhsin al-Fatalawi died Thursday [12 January] in a clash with police, the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB) said.

The IFLB, in a statement received in Cyprus, said police made the arrests "when they attacked the 3,000 people attending Fatalawi's funeral."

Diplomats and witnesses said Thursday's clashes lasted all night in alo-Diraz, Jamrah, Abu Saybi', Barbar, Jidd Hafs and Sanabis—Shiite communities northwest of Manama.

It was the worst violence since protests broke out in the emirate in mid-December after the arrest of a prominent Shiite cleric, Shaykh 'Ali Salman, on December 5, the sources said.

The IFLB said Saturday that the trouble had spread to Manama as well as al-Nuwaydirat, another Shiite community to the west.

The Ahrar liberal opposition movement based in London reported several wounded in clashes on Thursday and Friday. Tension was high in Shiite villages on Saturday, according to a statement sent to AFP.

Meanwhile the amir, Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, met Joseph Hoar and Richard Murphy, both members of the US Foreign Relations Council, the official Bahraini news agency GNA said.

The meeting was also attended by Prime Minister Khalifah Bin- Salman Al Khalifah, Foreign Minister Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah and Interior Minister Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah.

Demonstrators on Thursday called for the return of parliamentary democracy and for political reforms, as well as the release of prisoners, the witnesses and diplomats contacted by telephone said.

According to the Committee for the Defence of Political Prisoners in Bahrain based in London, 2,486 people have been arrested since the start of the violence.

The opposition said a total of 16 people have now been killed in the troubles, while the authorities say only one person has died.

The diplomats and witnesses said Sau [item received incomplete]

Sources Report Release of 'Around 200' Detainees

JN1501194395 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1920 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 15 Jan (WAKH)—Official Bahraini sources today reported the release of around 200 people of those who have been detained in connection with the vandalism carried out recently in some regions in Bahrain [passage indistinct] planning and inciting these acts of vandalism. The sources said the suspects are being interrogated and will stand trial for committing acts of violence, rioting, and vandalism [words indistinct] and trying to undermine Bahrain's social and economic achievements.

The sources said the acts of vandalism [words indistinct] public facilities [words indistinct] lampposts and traffic signs. The sources stressed that security and stability are back to normal in all regions in the country, expressing appreciation for the citizens and residents who have stayed calm and cooperated with the security agencies in safeguarding the homeland's security and achievements against tamperers and alien elements from abroad.

Authorities Expel Shiite Cleric to UAE

NC1501204895 Paris AFP in English 2030 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 15 (AFP)—Bahraini authorities have released and expelled to the United Arab Emirates a Shiite Moslem cleric whose arrest last month sparked clashes in the Gulf state, Bahraini opposition members said Sunday [15 January].

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Shaykh 'Ali Salman was deported to Dubai along with two other clerics, Shaykhs Hamzah al-Sidiri and Haydar al-Sitri, the foreign-based opposition said.

Expulsions Confirmed

NC1601065195 Paris AFP in English 2244 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Jan 15 (AFP)—Bahrain Sunday [15 January] confirmed it had expelled people linked to unrest in the Gulf archipelago and announced the release of 200 others arrested since early December, the news agency GNA [GULF NEWS AGENCY] reported.

The agency, monitored in Dubai, quoted an official source as saying "the authorities have expelled a group of individuals who had infiltrated from abroad and whose responsibility for the troubles in Bahrain has been proved."

It did not specify how many people had been expelled.

Bahrain's exiled opposition said Sunday that the government had released and expelled to the United Arab Emirates a prominent Shiite Moslem cleric whose arrest on December 5 sparked clashes in Bahrain.

Shaykh 'Ali Salman was deported to Dubai along with two other clerics, Shaykh Hamzah al-Sidiri and Hayidar al-Sitri, said the foreign-based opposition, contacted by AFP in Cyprus.

Shaykh Salman was arrested on December 5 after sending a petition to the Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah calling notably for the restoration of Bahrain's parliament, suspended in 1975.

The opposition has said a total of 16 people have been killed in the troubles which flared after his arrest, but the Sunni-led government has only acknowledged the death of one policeman.

The Committee for the Defence of Political Prisoners in Bahrain based in London said 2,486 people were arrested since the start of the violence.

Opposition Denounces Expulsions

NC1601111895 Paris AFP in English 1017 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Jan 16 (AFP)—Bahrain's opposition-in-exile on Monday [16 January] denounced the expulsion of people linked to unrest in the emirate and called on the government to hold talks.

"The deportation measures which the authorities have resorted to will not resolve the crisis which can only be done through dialogue," the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB) said in a statement to AFP in Beirut.

Dialogue was needed "to meet the social and economic demands which are the cause of popular discontent."

Bahrain on Sunday [15 January] confirmed it had expelled "a group of individuals who had infiltrated from abroad and whose responsibility for the troubles in Bahrain has been proved," the Bahrain news agency GNA [GULF NEWS AGENCY] said.

Opposition groups said leading Shiite cleric Shaykh 'Ali Salman whose arrest on December 5 sparked fierce clashes in the Gulf archipelago was deported to Dubai along with two other clerics, Shaykh Hamzah al-Sidiri and Haydar al-Sitri.

The government, which did not say how many people had been expelled, also said it had freed 200 people arrested during the unrest. There was no independent confirmation.

"We call on Arab governments to put pressure on the Bahraini leaders to authorise the return of the deportees and free all the political detainees," the Beirut-based IFLB said.

The opposition has said a total of 16 people died in the clashes between hundreds of Shiites and the security forces, but the Sunni- led Bahraini authorities have only acknowledged the death of one policeman.

According to the Committee for the Defence of Political Prisoners in Bahrain based in London, 2,486 people have been arrested since the start of the violence.

Shaykh 'Ali was arrested for calling for the restoration of parliament suspended in 1975, not long after Bahrain gained its independence from Britain.

Condemns West's 'Silence'

NC1601202895 Paris AFP in English 1959 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 16 (AFP)—Exiled Bahraini opposition groups on Monday [16 January] condemned the West's "silence" over the crackdown in the Gulf emirate on demonstrators pressing for political reforms.

The National Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (NFLB) and the Bahraini Popular Front (BPF) denounced "the silence of Western countries, especially the United States, faced with the massacre of civilians and human rights violations by the Bahraini authorities."

The opposition statement received by AFP in Cyprus added: "This silence is all the more deplorable because the United States and Britain agreed to take part in joint military maneuvers with the Bahraini forces."

British, U.S. and Bahraini units on Sunday [15 January] carried out joint air and naval exercises aimed at strengthening Bahrain's defence forces, the official news agency GNA said.

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Earlier another opposition group, the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB), condemned the expulsion of people linked to unrest in the emirate and called on the government to open a dialogue.

Bahrain on Sunday said it had expelled a group of people whose "responsibility for the troubles in Bahrain has been proved," GNA said.

Clashes broke out between Shiite Muslim protesters and security forces after the December 5 arrest of leading Shiite cleric Shaykh 'Ali Salman.

The opposition has said a total of 16 people died in the clashes but the Sunni-led Bahraini authorities have only acknowledged the death of one policeman.

Opposition groups said Shaykh Salman was deported to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), along with two other clerics, Shaykh Hamzah Diri and Haydar Sitri.

According to the Committee for the Defence of Political Prisoners in Bahrain based in London, 2,486 people have been arrested since the start of the violence.

"The deportation measures which the authorities have resorted to will not resolve the crisis, which can only be done through dialogue," the IFLB said in a statement to AFP in Beirut.

Shaykh 'Ali was arrested for calling for the restoration of parliament suspended in 1975, four years after the Gulf archipelago gained its independence from Britain.

Dissident Clergyman Leaves Gulf for London

NC1701100495 Paris AFP in English 0825 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 17 (AFP)—Leading Shiite Moslem cleric Shaykh 'Ali Salman left Dubai Tuesday [17 January] two days after being deported there from Bahrain and flew to London, the Bahraini opposition-in-exile said.

The Shiite leader may ask for political asylum in Britain where several Bahraini opposition movements are already based, opposition sources told AFP. They did not say if he was accompanied.

The arrest of Shaykh 'Ali on December 5 sparked a wave of street clashes between hundreds of young Shiites and security forces in the Gulf archipelago.

It was the worst violence since the former British protectorate gained its independence in 1971.

The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB) said a total of 16 people were killed in the unrest, but the Bahraini authorities only acknowledged the death of one policeman.

The shaykh was released Sunday [15 January] and deported to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates along with other Shiite leaders Shaykhs Hamzah al-Sidiri and Haydar al-Sitri.

Bahrain admitted only expelling a "group of individuals" whose "responsibility for the troubles in Bahrain has been proved."

Shaykh 'Ali was arrested for calling for the restoration of parliament suspended since 1975.

The IFLB and the Bahraini Popular Front on Monday [16 January] condemned the West's "silence" over the crackdown in the Gulf emirate on demonstrators pressing for political reforms.

They also denounced the expulsions as proof "of the failure of the policies" of the Sunni-led Bahraini government.

Kuwait

France's Juppe Reassures on Intentions Toward Iraq

LD1401174395 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1638 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 14 Dec—France has stressed its intention to continue to press for full Iraqi adherence to United Nations resolutions regarding Iraq's invasion of the State of Kuwait.

This was the subject of a letter from the French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe delivered by Charles Henri Daragon, French ambassador to Kuwait, to Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti foreign affairs minister, during their meeting in Kuwait City today.

In reply to a question from the Kuwaiti news agency on the contents of the letter, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that the letter included confirmation by Paris of its stance regarding the need for Baghdad to fully implement UN Security Council resolutions in connection with its invasion of Kuwait.

The foreign affairs minister said that Juppe explained in the letter the conditions and the outcome of the visit to Paris by Iraqi Vice President Tariq 'Aziz at the beginning of the current month.

In an indication of his satisfaction with the contents of the letter, Shaykh Sabah replied to a question by KUNA on whether the letter is in line with the basis of Kuwaiti policy toward Iraq by saying: I think that when an official sends a written instead of a verbal message, it does not require any comment.

It appears that the letter has diffused any doubts that might have loomed over the prospects of French intentions and its stance toward Iraq following its decision to open a French interests section at the Romanian embassy in Baghdad after Aziz's visit to Paris. [passage indistinct]

Bosnian Minister Claims Serbs Purchased Iraqi Oil

LD1601134595 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] Enes Duracovic, the minister of education, science and sport in the

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Republic of Bosnia- Herzegovina, is continuing his official visit to Kuwait. The news and political programs unit of Kuwaiti Television held an interview with the Bosnian minister. Here is part of the interview:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Your excellency, there have been confirmed reports of strong cooperation between the Iraqi regime and Serbs in the latter's aggressive war in Bosnia. What is the extent of this cooperation?

[Duracovic, in Arabic] We have heard several reports on this cooperation; we have always heard these reports in Bosnia- Herzegovina. We have information on the purchase of Iraqi oil by the Serbs. We also have a lot of information on several Serbian companies operating openly in Iraq.

Of course, we are not surprised at these operations; every child in Bosnia-Herzegovina compares the two evil characters of Saddam Husayn and Slobodan Milosevic. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Shaykh Sa'd: No Resumption of Ties With Saddam's Regime

LD1701095595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0730 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 17 Jan (KUNA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, stressed—in a press statement published here today—that there will be no resumption of relations with Iraq under its present regime. Shaykh Sa'd pointed out that that statement does not mean that we are against the Iraqi people, and he denied "reports made by some according to which America, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia were behind the blockade and the starvation of the Iraqi people." [passage omitted]

With regard to Kuwait's policy toward the peace process, Shaykh Sa'd stressed that "Kuwait supports a just and comprehensive peace within the framework of UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the other resolutions concerning the Middle East question."

His Highness Shaykh Sa'd talked also about Kuwaiti-Saudi relations and the reports according to which there is a possibility for setting up a confederacy [kunfidiraliyah] between the two countries. He pointed out that the historic relations, cooperation, cohesion, and understanding between them are greater than a confederacy. [passage omitted]

His Highness Shaykh Sa'd also dealt with Kuwaiti-American relations and expressed the hope that those relations will be consolidated and intensified, and that the cooperation will continue. He said: "We are very satisfied with our relations with the Unitied States and we seek their intensification and consolidation in all fields. We also endeavor to develop our relations with all the other fraternal and friendly states which stood by us during the liberation of Kuwait."

His Highness Shaykh Sa'd also discussed the internal situation in the State of Kuwait, the most important aspect of which is the issue of religious extremism, and he dismissed the possibility that it will spread to Kuwait. In this regard he denied that the governmental measures taken in past months aimed at clipping the wings of Islamists, and he said they are "our brothers and cousins."

In reply to a question on the National Assembly and the gaps in the democratic process he said: "You know what is happening in Kuwaiti life and you follow the sessions of the National Assembly and you can assess them. Everybody knows that I welcome any dialogue in which Kuwait's supreme interest lies. [passage omitted]

With regard to the economic situation, the Kuwaiti heir apparent said: "There is a financial deficit as figures show but, God willing, it will not continue. He added: "Sooner or later we must find other sources of income in addition to the present ones." [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sa'd replied also to allegations concerning the dependency and freedom of the Kuwaiti political decision. He said: "We are free in our internal and foreign policies" and stressed that "those statements were untrue and were unreasonable and unacceptable allegations."

Amir in Phone Conversation With Saudi King Fahd

LD1401191095 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness the Amir of the country at noon today held a telephone contact with his brother the Custodian of the Two Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, monarch of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, during which they exchanged views on the recent developments at the Arab and Gulf arenas.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Syrian Vice President, al-Asad Message

LD1301231295 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2213 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 13 Jan (SPA)—King Fahd- Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, today at his office at the Yamamah Palace received Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al- Halim Khaddam, who was accompanied by His Excellency Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian minister of foreign affairs.

'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam conveyed a message to the custodian of the two holy mosques from his brother President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

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The Syrian vice president arrived in Riyadh earlier today accompanied by the Syrian foreign minister.

They were welcomed on arrival at King Khalid's International Airport by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Syrian Ambassador 'Umar al-Sayyid.

Fahd, Foreign Minister Meet With Khaddam

MM1601124995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Hasin al-Bunyan and 'Abdallah Hammudah: "Yemeni Delegation Visit To Saudi Arabia Postponed; Syrian Move Between Riyadh And Sanaa"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, London, Damascus, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam continued yesterday his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where he arrived the evening before last, accompanied by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The Conferences Palace, where the Syrian vice president is staying, witnessed extensive contacts, focusing on developments in the region and the efforts made to clear the Arab air.

According to Syrian diplomatic sources, these contacts also included the issue of containing the border incident that occurred last Wednesday [11 January] on the Saudi-Yemeni border.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met for an hour with Khaddam in the Conference Palace in al-Shar"s presence. And Khaddam and al-Shar' held a protracted meeting in the former's suite. They also made a series of contacts.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz received Khaddam the evening before last in his office at al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh. He received from Khaddam a message from President Hafiz al-Asad. The Syrian News Agency (SANA) said that the message concerned "current conditions in the Arab region, the efforts exerted to achieve Arab solidarity, and developments in the peace process in the Middle East."

Khaddam's visit comes after a visit to Yemen during which he was accompanied by al-Shar'. According to the Yemeni news agency (SABA'), the visit dealt with "the efforts exerted to clear the Arab air and revive Arab solidarity."

A visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by a high-level Yemeni delegation was postponed yesterday for the second time in a week. Until yesterday afternoon well-informed sources in Sanaa had been saying that "the delegation will leave at the end of the day; the delegation is waiting for a plane to take them to Riyadh."

It is worth mentioning that the Yemeni delegation is headed by Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, chairman of the Higher Committee of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, and chief of the Hashid tribe. It includes Dr. Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and 'Abd-al-Qadir Bajamal, deputy prime minister and planning minister. The delegation was scheduled to travel to Riyadh last Monday [9 January] before the decision to postpone the visit.

More on Contacts With Khaddam, al-Shar'

MM1601134795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Sulayman Nimr and Faysal Makram: "Arab Contacts To Ease Tension on Saudi-Yemeni Border"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, Sanaa—Over the past 48 hours Riyadh has witnessed important high-level Arab contacts which, well-informed sources say, concern current developments in the region. In this context Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz received the evening before last "an important and urgent" message from President Hafiz al-Asad. It was conveyed to him by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' when the king received the two Syrian officials the evening before last.

An official source from the Syrian delegation told AL-HAYAH that the message concerns "uniting the Arab position and preventing the eruption of any dispute." [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH has learned from Syrian delegation sources that Khaddam's and al-Shar"s urgent visit "is linked to current developments and incidents on the Saudi-Yemeni border," which from time to time witnesses some incidents that could develop and explode the situation, but for current contacts.

Observers noted that Prince Ahmad Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi deputy interior minister, attended King Fahd's meeting with the two Syrian officials—which indicates the discussions broached recent border incidents on the Saudi-Yemeni border, the most recent of which took place last Tuesday [10 January]. This incident caused tension in the area and prompted Arab contacts and mediations to avert a deterioration in the situation. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, it has been noted that the visit which Yemeni House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar was scheduled to make to Riyadh yesterday at the head of a high-level Yemeni delegation has been postponed for the second time.

An Arab diplomatic source believes that the contacts being made by Damascus and other Arab capitals (President Husni Mubarak yesterday telephoned President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih) are aimed at trying to arrange a visit for the Yemeni president to the Saudi capital within the next few hours. [sentence as published] [passage omitted]

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Defense Minister, Gulf Leaders Discuss 'Mutual Concerns'

LD1401231295 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2247 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 14 Jan—His royal highness Prince Sultan Bin-Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector-general, this evening received telephone calls from his brothers his highness Shaykh Hamad 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Forces; his highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Bahrain; his highness Shaykh Sa'd al- Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Kuwait; his highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, heir apparent of Abu Dhabi and deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

The contacts come within the sphere of consultation and cooperation in all that may serve the causes of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, strengthen the progress of the GCC, and realize security and stability in the region, in addition to reviewing issues of mutual concern.

Paper Extols Handling of Saudi-Yemeni Border Incident

JN1501144895 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 12 Jan 95 p 9

[Editorial: "The Right Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some people lie in wait to disturb the calm relations among the countries of the Arab nation whenever they see a chance or whenever the circumstances are ripe.

Huge fires are usually caused by tiny sparks, and those who harbor hatred and sickness in their hearts are present all over the world; they are not satisfied unless they incite sedition, spread rumors, and try to poison the water.

A glance at most previous and contemporary wars—big or small—emphasizes this fact. An explosion between two countries is usually preceded by satanic practices by misguided groups whose main concern is to trouble the waters among peoples, and then to fish in troubled waters.

The kingdom is aware of the dangerous dimensions of this fact. Whenever the sick mass media in the East or the West try to spread their lies about the kingdom, it tries to explain the facts to Arab, Islamic, and international public opinion. The kingdom tries to confront these lies with facts and evidence that show the falsity of these tendentious media practices. The kingdom plays the same role in protecting the shining image of legitimate Islamic and Arab causes from mass media's attempts at distortion.

Based on the kingdom's desire to curb the ability of the media and others to encroach on the sovereignty of Arab and Islamic states, it continues to carry out its fruitful mediations to heal rifts, bring views closer, and end conflict among brothers. The whole world does not deny the honorable and active role of the kingdom to end the civil war in Lebanon through the historic agreement concluded in al-Ta'if. This ended a bloody conflict that lasted for 15 years and was about to wipe out everything there, dampening any spark of hope about stemming the flow of Arab blood in that sisterly country.

Among other active roles to counter sedition among Muslims was the historic and important agreement signed in holy Mecca by the rival Afghan factions, which is still the most appropriate solution for the Afghan crisis. The kingdom played other important and basic roles on the Gulf, Arab, and Islamic levels that took opportunities away from those who tamper with Arab and Muslim capabilities and who destabilize their ideal endeavors to unify their ranks and maintain their identity.

The telephone contact between the custodian of the two holy mosques and his excellency the Yemeni president to contain the border incident that took place in the southeastern region in morning of the day before yesterday emphasizes anew the kingdom's commitment to a policy based on not giving the enemies of the two neighborly and sisterly countries a chance to undermine their interests and their fraternal relations. This policy strengthens the bonds between the peoples of the Arab and Islamic nations. It cuts down to size the evil secret, and open, attempts by the enemies of Arabs and Muslims to undermine their capabilities, their dignity, and their joint aspirations to build a better future.

Yemen

Syria's Khaddam, al-Shar' Arrive in Yemen With 'Message'

JN1301123195 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, accompanied by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', arrived in Sanaa this afternoon on a visit to our country during which he will convey a message to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from his brother Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The message deals with the latest Arab developments in light of endeavors to establish peace in the Arab arena.

The Syrian guest was received at the airport by the Vice President, Major General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, and Dr. 'Abd-al- Karim al-Iryani, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

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After welcoming the guest and his delegation, Vice President Hadi accompanied him to the dais. Thee national anthems of the two sisterly countries were played. The two officials then inspected a guard of honor. The guest then shook hands with those who were present to receive him including the ministers, a number of military and civilian officials, and the Syrian charge'd affaires and the embassy staff.

In a statement to the SABA' news agency, Khaddam expressed his pleasure in visiting his second homeland, Yemen, indicating that he bears a message to Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from his brother Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with the current Arab situation, the march of peace, bilateral relations, and issues of common concern. Khaddam noted that his visit to our country is within efforts by the Syrian leadership to restore Arab solidarity and rapprochement among the brothers in order to confront the accelerating changes the Arab nation is facing in this important phase of modern history. Khaddam noted that the continuation of the current Arab situation is detrimental to all and does not benefit anyone, affirming the need for sincere work by everyone to improve the Arab climate and restore joint Arab action within the commitment of all of us to Arab resolutions and covenants.

Salih Receives al-Asad Message

JN1301175295 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and Vice President Major General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, today received Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, who conveyed a message to the brother president from his brother Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The message deals with fraternal bilateral relations, developments in the Arab arena, and issues that concern our Arab nation, the foremost of which are clearing the Arab atmosphere, realizing reconciliation among brothers, and reviving Arab solidarity, in addition to the developments of the peace process in the region.

The brother president and the Syrian vice president discussed several issues that concern the fraternal relations between the two countries and ways of developing spheres of bilateral cooperation.

Brother 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam congratulated the brother president on the victory of Yemeni unity, and stressed that this is a historic achievement and a shining point in the Arab world. He briefed the brother president on the results of the tripartite summit held in Alexandria among the leaders of Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, and the Syrian position on the developments of the peace process in the region.

The brother president emphasized anew our country's support for the brothers in Syria and for efforts aimed to attain a just and lasting peace that ensures the restoration of all Arab rights [words indistinct] ending the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories in the Golan and southern Lebanon.

He emphasized our country's support for all efforts aimed to realize Arab reconciliation and restore Arab solidarity in a manner that enhances the march of joint Arab action and bolsters the ability of the Arab nation to confront the challenges imposed on it.

The meeting was attended by brothers Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, House of Representatives speaker; 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al- Ghani, prime minister; and Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

From the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Syrian charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Salih Receives King Husayn, Mubarak Calls

JN1401124295 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president of the republic, today received a phone call from his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The two leaders discussed brotherly ties between the two sisterly countries and developments and issues of concern to our Arab nation, particularly developments in the regional peace process and the efforts exerted to achieve Arab reconciliation and rapprochement, restore Arab solidarity, and strengthen joint Arab action.

Brother Lt. Gen. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih last night received a phone call from his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. They discussed the brotherly ties between the two sisterly countries, Arab developments, and the efforts exerted to achieve Arab reconciliation and revive Arab solidarity to serve the supreme interests of our Arab and Islamic nations.

Salih Leaves on Official 3-Day Visit to France

JN1501083795 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Accepting an invitation of French President Francois Mitterrand, Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, left Sanaa international airport for Paris at 0900 today for an official three-day visit to France.

During the visit, the brother president will hold talks on ways to promote bilateral relations and cooperation. He will also discuss regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The brother president is accompanied by a ranking delegation made up of 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi, deputy

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prime minister; Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister and minister of industry; Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, presidential adviser; Faysal Bin-Shamlan, minister of oil and mineral resources; 'Ali Muhammad al-Anisi, director of the president's office; Brigadier General 'Abdallah al- Bashiri, secretary general of the Presidency; Dir' al-Nu'man, member of the General Committee; Dr. Mutahhar al-Sa'idi, Planning and Development deputy minister; Ja'far Hamid, Planning Ministry under secretary and head of the Yemeni-French Friendship Society; and Yemeni businessmen and investors.

Salih Denies Country Houses Camps for 'Extremist Islamists'

JN1601100095 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The French newspaper LIBERATION conducted an interview with President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih yesterday evening. The interview will be published in today's issue of the paper.

In the interview, the brother president noted that he is visiting France to extend his thanks to French President Francois Mitterrand, the French Government, and the French people for the position they took toward the ordeal Yemen experienced due to the acts of the treasonous secessionists. The positions of the French president and the French Government were positive at the level of the United Nations, and on all other levels in support of unity and democracy, he added.

When asked whether there is still resistance by the secessionists, the brother president said that the secession has been settled once and for all.

In reply to a question regarding the return to Yemen by brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, the brother president said: 'Ali Nasir Muhammad is a Yemeni citizen. He has the right to return to Yemen anytime he wants. There is no ban on his return home. He is a nationalist figure who has taken positive stands. He is a supporter and advocate of unity.

When asked about reports on the existence of camps for extremist Islamists in Yemen, the brother president said: These reports were part of groundless propaganda promoted by the treasonous secessionists as part of the political struggle that existed in the past. We would like to reiterate that there are no camps for extremists Islamists or others, for that matter, on Yemeni territory. The rumors circulated to this effect are part of a campaign that cannot be termed positive. Yemen condemns terrorism and extremism regardless of the names in which they are committed.

Responding to a question on the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG], participation in government, and whether the YRG supports the extremist Islamists who attacked some buildings in Aden, the brother president said: We within the General People's Congress are in a coalition government with the YRG. Every country has its own peculiarities. With regard to the extremist elements that attacked some tombs and mausoleums, they were not YRG members. These were members of the so-called Jihad faction. They fought in Afghanistan when Afghan fighters were receiving aid from some Arab and Western states to fight communists. When these incidents took place in Aden, the government took firm measures. These elements are now standing trial. At any rate, these elements were raised by the West when it had fears regarding a communist surge. For now, the fears about a communist surge have been replaced by fears of an Islamist surge. This might be part of the changes brought about by the new world order.

With regard to the economic situation in our country, the brother president said that the economic situation in Yemen is experiencing difficulties as a result of the Gulf war, the legacy of the totalitarian regime of the Yemeni Socialist Party, and the impact of the Yemeni crisis and war. Nonetheless, the government is doing its best, as part of its new program, to address the economic situation. We hope that the EC will extend aid to us. Just as the EC is supporting us in our democratization effort, we hope it will help us in the economic field. For there can be no democracy when the people's basic supplies are hard to find, the brother president maintained.

In reply to a question on the freedom of the press in our country, the brother president said: We can safely say that there is real press freedom in Yemen in word and deed. For partisan, independent, and even official newspapers are not censored. This is guaranteed by the Constitution and the law. Nonetheless, our newspapers do not enjoy wide circulation; and this prevents them from being known as such. However, the readers living in Yemen, diplomatic missions, and investment firms can ascertain this and see for themselves the freedom of the press in our country.

United Arab Emirates

Minister Urges Reconciliation With Iraq

JN1301184495 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 11 Jan 95 p 8

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a comprehensive and frank interview, His Highness General Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, defense minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and heir apparent of Dubai, spoke about topical domestic, Gulf, and Arab issues.

In the interview with chief editors and representatives of Arab and local newspapers, he spoke about the future of the great progress in the UAE and the rumors about new labor laws. [passage omitted]

On border differences between some Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, his highness emphasized that these differences are minor and that they do not affect

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the cooperation march of the GCC states. He spoke about the rationality of the GCC leaders on these issues and said: King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques is a brother to Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, and Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain. They are all brothers, and I do not think that the border problems are deep among fraternal countries, and these problems are on their way to a solution, especially after the recent summit conference held in Bahrain last December. [passage omitted]

On relations between the UAE and Iran, his highness said Iran is an Islamic and neighboring state, and our destiny is to deal with it on the basis of good neighborliness and mutual respect, and to work with it to solve differences and problems through peaceful means. This is what His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, always calls for. His policy is the UAE's peaceful policy on this subject. He emphasized that artificial problems in the Gulf region should be resolved peacefully so that the peoples of the region will live in security, peace, and welfare. [passage omitted]

Answering a question by Kuwaiti journalist Muhammad al-Barjas, editor-in-chief of the magazine AL-SABAQ, General Muhammd Bin Rashid Al Maktum emphasized the need for Arab reconciliation at this current stage, which is important to the Arab countries. He emphasized that the Arabs cannot live divided for long. In this context, he pointed out that Iraq and the Iraqi people are part of the Arab homeland and the Arab nation. He recalled that Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan was the first to call for tolerance and forgiveness, and to forget about the past. He was the one who raised high the banner of reconciliation, and he called for turning over a new leaf in inter-Arab relations, regardless of any pretext or justification that is not essential or that does not stand as the core of the cause. As for Iraq, it has abided by international laws and resolutions and implemented most of them. It has officially recognized the border and sovereignty of Kuwait, so why don't the Kuwaiti people and leadership extend the bridges of amity and contacts toward the Iraqi people? It is the destiny of Kuwait and Iraq to be neighbors and brothers. Their peoples should deal with one another in spite of all the tragedies that were experienced during the war to liberate Kuwait.

In this regard, his highness said: The UAE and other Arab states stood alongside Kuwait and its people and fought alongside the Kuwaiti people in order to return the rights to their owners. Kuwait was regained after its people's suffering and pains. However, the Iraqi people are now suffering from the blockade, hunger, and disease, so why do we not stand alongside them and help them in their suffering? Can an Arab abandon or disavow his Arab brother? Do our Arab consciences, ethics, and values, along with our Islamic religion, permit us to leave the Iraqi people to suffering and pain?

His highness added: As an Arab who was born to an Arab father and mother, who was fed Arab milk in his childhood, and who was brought up in an Arab country, I do not believe that I can accept the Iraqi people's continued suffering from hunger, poverty, and disease as a result of the blockade imposed on them. [passage omitted]

Asked about the Iraqi regime's intransigence in terms of its failure to release the Kuwaiti prisoners, his excellency said: Kuwait asserts that there are prisoners whereas Iraq denies this. In order to resolve this humanitarian issue, the Kuwaiti people must extend bridges of amity toward the Iraqi people. Through amity and contacts, this issue can be resolved. [passage omitted]

His highness stressed the need to forget about, and close, the past chapter and not to give feeble justifications and pretexts designed to keep the Arab situation fragmented and torn apart. He asserted that the Iraqi people have a history and civilization that is deeply-rooted in the glorious Arab history.

He said: As Arabs, we should not forget this fact or sell out this people. He added: Enough slanders against the Arab nation. During his remarks, he recalled the day when the allies struck at Egypt under late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. The allies plotted against 'Abd-al-Nasir until the UN troops withdrew from the [Suez] Canal area. They then struck at 'Abd-al-Nasir and destroyed his strength, which they considered to be something that supported the Arabs and a stronghold designed to defend the Arab nation's causes.

Concluding his meeting with the journalists, his highness discussed Arab-Israeli peace. He recalled that an Arab, ever since his childhood, has learned that the Jews are the enemies of the Arabs and that they disavowed Arab rights and killed and rendered homeless an Arab people, so how can we easily and quickly accept dealing with Israel? This needs time, and peace means returning all the Arab rights to their owners so a just and lasting peace will prevail in the Middle East.

Concluding, his highness wondered: How can we make peace and deal with Israel at a time when we are not making peace or dealing with a deep-rooted Arab people who have firm imprints on the Arab history and civilization? His highness was referring to the fraternal Iraqi people.

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IRNA: Jordan 'Sources' Reveal Failed Coup Attempt

LD1601221095 Tehran IRNA in English 2144 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 17, IRNA—Reports coming from Jordan indicate that a recent coup in Iraq which was designed to kill the leader of the Ba'athist regime was discovered and aborted.

Iraqi sources in Jordan revealed that the coup was plotted by some high-ranking members of the Iraqi Air Force, led by Major-General Pilot Mohammed Mazlum Aldelimi.

According to these sources, after the failed plot to kill Saddam near Alramady Palace, suburbs of Baghdad, those behind the coup were arrested.

These sources say that in relation to this coup 14 high-ranking Iraqi Air Force officers were arrested. Aldalimi, the architect of the coup was brutally killed and there is no news of the fate of the rest of them.

Saddam Delivers Gulf War Anniversary Speech

JN1701114595 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0805 GMT 17 Jan 95

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn on the fourth anniversary of the 1991 Gulf war—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful,the compassionate. O Mujahidin and steadfast people in our glorious [Arab] nation, O great Mujahidin people in glorious and self- sacrificing Iraq, O splendid men of our brave Armed Forces, O friends in the world, may God's peace and blessings be upon you.

At some point in time, the following tale will be told:

Once upon a time, in ancient times—hundreds or thousands of years ago—there lived a great people which were part of a great nation. The nation extended between seas and oceans, from the east to the west, touching the coasts of the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea, the Arabian Sea, and the coasts of the Red Sea. The sea which died and which was called the Dead Sea was also on the territory of this great and glorious nation. On the territory of this glorious nation, the divine messages were revealed and the prophets and messengers of God appeared. This is because God, praise be to him, loved this nation very much and distinguished its role among nations, assigning it the duty of becoming the conveyer of his messages, through the angel Gabriel, who conveyed this message to a messenger from this nation and through him to the whole world.

Whenever other nations deviated from the strait, good, honest, and just path in its relations, they awaited the advent of a messenger from this lofty [Arab] nation to deliver them. These nations also did this whenever the tyrants oppressed their own peoples instead of doing them justice, whenever grudges and hatred replaced cooperation and amity, and whenever the notion spread that worldly riches were not given by God who granted them through mercy and grace to his people but were robbed from the property of the poor from their own people and the property of other nations which these tyrants oppressed by bloodshed. They enjoyed these riches until their day of reckoning. Whenever the nations surrounding this lofty nation, despised and looked down on it, the honest and farsighted looked to it for the arrival of a savior who would save mankind from the oppression of the tyrants.

This lofty, deliverer nation was the Arab nation. The great people who were part of this nation, lived on the eastern part of it. On the west, these people had brothers in the fraternal Arab countries. They lived between two plateaus: the eastern plateau was foreign and the western plateau was Arab. This country's name was Iraq. It is said that man began there, be it at the time of our lord Adam and our mother Eve, may God's peace be upon them, or during the time of our lord Noah, peace be upon him, whom God ordered to take a pair of each creature upon his ark before God drowned the earth and those misguided ones who lived on it. Our Lord Ibrahim, the father of the prophets, was born on the land of Iraq and lived there for a while before leaving for his final abode, building the sanctified house of God in Holy Mecca as the well-known story says.

God's messenger, Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, was the last messenger sent to mankind. He received his divine revelation in the holy city of Mecca in Hejaz. When Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, who cherishes mercy, received his divine revelation, justice, goodness, and faith spread wherever the Arabs reached as missionaries to communicate the message of God, most gracious and most merciful. God has chosen to make the message of Islam the last message sent to mankind. The almighty God says that the benevolent man, when bestowed with maturity, mental capability, and a sharpened sensitivity and blessed with guidance, can reinstate honorable principles within the people's hearts and minds. Such a man must remind people of these principles whenever, with the help of God, he embarks on doing good and demonstrates perseverance in the performance of his duties without showing any laxity or hesitation.

But, a long time later, when the prophet died the nation of the prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, began to weaken, because its sons failed to perform their militant and jihad roles, and to serve as a model and example for goodness, virtue, and faith. Thus, it experienced division after unity, and weakness after strength and vigor. Thus, foreigners managed to dominate it after seizing control of its resources and territories. So, after it had set an example and a model for humanity in upholding virtue, goodness, serious undertakings, and justice, it was subdued and became subservient to foreigners. As a result, its sons experienced

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spiritual, intellectual, financial, and ethical impoverishment after they had been strong, wealthy, and capable in all these areas.

As for Iraq, just like fraternal Arabs, it became weak, poor, and subdued. Its great wealth and the wealth of all Arabs were taken away by foreigners, who only left them crumbs to eat so that part of them might survive and be exploited and enslaved after they had been masters of their own destiny who had set an example for the whole of mankind in sovereignty, freedom, justice, and fairness.

This prompted the Arab nation to unleash revolutions against the foreigners who enslaved them. Once a revolution erupted in any Arab state, foreigners and their Arab allies tried to beleaguer it to weaken its capabilities so they could reimpose their control on the rebellious state. This remained the case for hundreds of years.

In the course of these many long years in which foreigners controlled Arab affairs, and the Arabs attempted to rebel against foreigners, we saw the success of revolutionaries fiercely committed to upholding right against falsehood. These revolutionaries were rightly assigned the task of working to promote the lot of their nation and people. They were eager to see the nation's wealth remain in the hands of its own sons, rather than in foreign hands. Likewise, they wanted to remain masters of their own destiny, free people rather than stooges, unshackled, honest, incorruptible, and a model for others in virtue, fairness, and honesty.

Those revolutionaries succeeded in their revolution and in their policy to rid their people of oppression and hunger. They placed the people's wealth at the disposal of the people and nation. By doing so, they set an example to be emulated by the nation so it could undertake its duties toward itself and expel colonialism from its mind and heart firstly by rejecting submission and subservience. It would then mobilize its forces and expel colonialism from its land and get rid of its policies of domination and exploitation.

Brothers and friends: These people, who were liberated, are the people of Iraq. Those who led them and succeeded in liberating them and placing their wealth at their disposal for the sake of building a new civilization were free, national Iraqi leaders. This aggravated colonialism, so it moved others against Iraq to engage with it in protracted hostile fighting that lasted eight years. However, Iraq triumphed over those misguided people who came as aggressors from the eastern plateau, from Iran. When this attempt failed, colonialism and its henchmen began a new attempt. It rounded up more than 30 states against Iraq and assembled 28 armies against the valiant, mujahid army of Iraq. The Iraqi Army stood alone in the battlefield against 28 armies. Iraq carried the banner of justice and that of the new Arab human being. More than 30 states, including the biggest states in terms of number, weapons, funds, influence, falsehood, and fabrication capabilities, stood against it. They all sought to destroy the great, mujahid Iraq and its valiant and trustworthy army.

Iraq's basic power lay in its belief that almighty God will protect Iraq. At a time when Iraq sought the protection of almighty God, the devil lined up with its companions in error, aggression, and vice. A great epic in the form of a series of tough and bitter battles occurred. All sea, air, and ground forces were used. The enemy filled the skies of Iraq and neighboring countries with fighter planes and remote-control missiles when it launched its vile aggression against it. It filled seas and oceans with vessels, warships, and gunboats. Corresponding armies and ground forces landed in the land of Hejaz and Najd [Saudi Arabia] with their full weight and assembled at Hafar al-Batin.

At a time when the circumstances were extremely critical, Iraq fixed its eyes on a place on the western plateau, where Yathrib [Medina] and the fragrance and aroma of the message lie, and from where the prophet of mercy Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him, made his midnight journey, and where the old house of God lies in Mecca, the house of God which was built by our lord Abraham, peace be upon him.

Instead of remembering their duty toward the meanings on whose bases the glorious Medina of the prophet was established and the meanings of Islam's Qiblah [direction to which Muslims turn to pray] in Mecca, the rulers of that country made this land and the land of the western plateau, on which they were installed as rulers, a staging ground for the armies of infidelity and aggression from which they launched their aggression against Iraq. After a long duel, in which all weapons of destruction, devastation, and killing were used, in addition to what resulted from the anti-Arab grudge coming from Iran within the chapter of treachery and treason, the dust of war settled, and Iraq and its army emerged alive and capable, in the name of God, despite all the wounds they sustained and despite the fact that they lost dear and brilliant sons and brothers. This drove the aggressors crazy. They realized they had failed utterly, especially after Iraq resumed construction work and rebuilt what the aggressors had destroyed. Moreover, it added all that is new, lofty, and grand.

After the oppressors and traitors held consultations among themselves, they said to themselves that the only way to harm Iraq was through tightening and prolonging their unjust and wicked land, naval, and air embargo against it. Thus, they prevent Iraq from selling anything to the outside and prevent anyone from the outside from selling it anything to eat, wear, or help it continue its life. They have even deprived its patient people of medicine, thus causing those who are in need of medicine to die because they cannot get it due to their blockade. Consequently, the souls of those who died due to the blockade ascended to the high heavens to be beside martyrs. These are further witnesses to the lowliness of the lowly and the vileness and betrayal of the betrayers.

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However, Iraq remained strong, proud, capable,and sound and it kept building, chanting for the homeland, nation, and humanity, singing for life, raising the banner of God is great high, and calling out for great principles.

Brothers, what we have talked about is our own story. Yes, it is the story of this struggling, mujahid, steadfast, and great generation, which is the offspring of the great mujahid Iraq. This is a simplified version of the story of all Iraqis against aggression and injustice. It is the immortal Mother of Battles.

Would this not sound like a fictitious or legendary tale if read and narrated to the sons of our nation and other nations after hundreds or thousands of years? Which of its parties will be taken as a model and an example for the nation and mankind? Which of its parties has already been taken as an example to be emulated? Is it the party that seeks God's protection or the party that was tempted by the damned devil? A fair answer will be the fruit of our present generation's struggle, as well as our great reward, we the people of this generation. Anything contrary to this is valueless and will be the share of failures, the helpers of Satan, and others. God is great. Long live the principles of the immortal Mother of Battles, which began one of its most important fighting chapters in the early morning of 17 January 1991 when the shells of grudge and evil poured down on dear, beloved, beautiful Baghdad, which is proud of its people. That morning, the mujahidin in Baghdad and everywhere in Iraq and on all battle fronts replied with their weapons—the weapons of faith, zeal, and jihad—to the aggressors with great ability. Their planes and missiles were destroyed whenever the weapons we possessed managed to reach these planes and missiles. Despite the toughness of that day and the subsequent days, the army and people of Iraq proved even to those blinded by God that they, army and people, are worthy of recording for the mujahidin the glory they deserve on earth and the closeness to God they deserve in heaven.

By their faith, faithful zeal, and stand, the Iraqis have proven that they are different from those who were easily subjugated to the will of colonialism without proper resistance that would make colonialism pay the price of its arrogance. The Iraqis, deservedly and without false claims, are a model and an example of faith, capability, and zeal to be emulated by the nation of prophets. They are headed, whenever the fighting arenas so require, by their great army. Their army is led in the battle of jihad by the men of the air defenses, the surface-to-surface missiles, the glorious men of the ground forces, and all armed forces corpse from al-Khafji and the periphery of Arab al-Basrah in the south to Baghdad—which is mighty with its people—and northern, western and eastern Iraq, especially when they were raising high the banner of right, the banner of God is great, shouting loudly while pressing every trigger: God is great, God is great, and glory to God and the believers; death to the enemies of God and those who betrayed him.

O great people. What we have discussed is mainly linked to the past which constitutes motivation for continuing on the path of great principles. What can we say about the present?

We say what we have always said about the present on other occasions. What we have said continues to represent the symbol of our basic connections to the past. What we would like to add now is that the enemies' bets have failed to divert the people from their march or from weakening their determination. They want the people to fall in dark abysses they prepared for them and wished to see them going into them. These enemies are living in contradiction and the evil spirit in them is continuously weakening. They are dejected or are close to dejection since the results of their abject failure have become clear.

As it did in previous years, Iraq last year continued to unmask evil intentions aimed at isolating Iraq internationally. The ropes of isolation are now wrapped around the necks of those who take the opposite stand. The factors of resistance have increased against them in the international community, thus weakening their influence and undermining what remains of their pretext, which they now use as a cover to influence a certain sphere.

The prospects for the future of the Iraqi people have become greater, brighter, and within reach, thanks to the Iraqis' strong resolve and ability to work, produce, and shape their present and future amidst hard circumstances. Their determination to achieve this is great. The sun will bring its light, the Iraqi moon will illuminate, and all doors will open soon, God willing. After seeking the assistance of God, added determination and gracious patience will be necessary to achieve all this, and other things that could uphold moral law, relieve minds, and soon provide the requirements for a happy life, God willing. God is great.

Mercy in heavens for the martyrs of our glorious nation.

Mercy to the martyrs of Iraq.

Mercy to the martyrs of the immortal Mother of Battles.

Mercy to the martyrs of Palestine. Long live Palestine, free and Arab.

Long live our glorious [Arab] nation and its great men who were honest witnesses at this stage of the greatness of the militant stand of their Iraqi brothers who represent them in the best possible manner in a position of honor and pride.

Greetings to them, as they took a faithful, nationalist stand in the immortal Mother of Battles in accordance with their resources and the opportunities available to them side by side with their Iraqi brothers. Such was the stand of some Ba'thists in the Arab regions and the stand of the youths of Egypt in their demonstrations against America and its cohorts in the alliance of aggression. In these demonstrations, faithful and zealous youths from

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the Egypt of Arabism were martyred. They were college boys whose chaste souls were raised to heaven, leaving behind an indelible mark in terms of glory and pan-Arab zeal in the annals of Arabism and faith. Taking part in other activities were the sons of the great Arab Maghreb regions of Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania; the sons of Sudan and Yemen; the sons of in Jordan, Palestine, and Lebanon in the Arab east, as well as in other well-known Arab regions, led by the sons of Arab Syria whose difficult political circumstances did not enable them to express their stand on a level equal to their pan-Arab feelings and their intimate sympathy with the Iraqi brothers. Greetings to all of them.

Greetings to Arab expatriates in the United States, Britain, France, and elsewhere, who defied terrorism and pressures, staged demonstrations, or sent messages and cables to protest the aggression against Iraq, the country that promotes Arabism and cherishes faith.

Greetings to the sons of our nation, who supported us with their writings, poems, utterances, and hearts.

Special greetings to the peoples of Pakistan and Bangladesh, who demonstrated for several days to express their support for Iraq and their denunciation of the aggression. Several Pakistanis and Bangladeshis expressed a desire to volunteer to fight on the side of Iraq in its jihad against the camp of infidelity and tyranny. Nonetheless, their regimes' stands and political circumstances in their own countries prevented them from realizing their wishes.

Greetings to the free foreign friends, including free people in the Russian Federation, who denounced the aggression and demonstrated against it, as well as nationals of the aggression states who took a fair stand despite the aggression their governments and administrations mounted against Iraq.

Greetings to all of them. May glory be the lot of our nation.

May mercy envelop the souls of the martyrs of the Mother of

Battles.

May the uppermost heaven be their eternal abode.

Long live the great mujahid Iraqi people.

Long live Iraq. .

Long live its valiant and conscientious army.

God is great, God is great. May the lowly be accursed.

Official Says U.S. Out To 'Exterminate' Iraqis

NC1301142895 Paris AFP in English 1347 GMT 13 Jan 95

[Report by Farouk Choukri]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Baghdad, Jan 13 (AFP)—Iraq on Friday [13 January] accused the United States of seeking to impose collective punishment on its people and voiced anger at the UN Security Council decision to keep up four-year-old economic sanctions.

The Security Council maintained the sanctions at its two-monthly review in New York on Thursday [12 January] despite efforts by France, Russia and China to ease the measures imposed after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"Washington wants to impose collective punishment and is planning to exterminate the Iraqi people," a senior official in the ruling Ba'th Party, Sa'id Qasim Hammadi, told AFP.

"The international community must be conscious of the danger of the American grip on the United Nations, because Iraq has fulfilled its main obligations," Hammadi said.

"The American attitude can only undermine the credibility of the United Nations," he said. The decision to maintain the sanctions is "unfair and is without moral foundation." [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz Comments on UNSC Review Session

JN1301145595 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz spoke to reporters at the United Nations in New York yesterday, saying: The Iraqi policy has always been grounded in cooperation with the UN Security Council [UNSC] to effect a serious, legitimate, and balanced implementation of its relevant resolutions. This policy reflects a desire to promote peace and stability in our region and resolve the problems with Kuwait and the other countries of the region through dialogue, and based on mutual respect and respect for sovereignty and legitimate interests.

Tariq 'Aziz added: This strategy is appreciated by the countries that do not harbor hostility toward Iraq, such as France, Russia, the PRC, and many other world states that are demonstrating increasing understanding and appreciation of the Iraqi position.

'Aziz went on to say: However, the United States, which enjoys British support, is the party that seeks the perpetuation of the Iraqi sanctions, regardless of what Iraq does. Sometimes, the United States feels disappointed and sad when Iraq takes a position that is in line with the aforementioned policy.

'Aziz said: For example, the U.S. UN delegate was unhappy with the Iraqi decision to recognize Kuwait and its borders. In the same vein, it was unhappy with Iraq's decision to accept Resolution 815 regarding future monitoring.

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It is to be recalled that the UNSC president spoke at the outset of the UNSC sanctions periodic review session yesterday. He briefed UNSC members on the outcome of the meeting he held with Tariq 'Aziz. He said that he presented the Iraqi deputy prime minister with the UNSC demands regarding the need for the UN Special Commission to obtain information on Iraq's previous programs; namely, on how Iraq obtained the material required to manufacture mass destruction weapons. Tariq 'Aziz informed him that the technical delegation that is accompanying him on his New York visit will hold talks with the UN Special Commission, and that it is carrying with it large volumes of information on previous programs. Furthermore, 'Aziz told the UNSC president that Iraq is willing to receive the request for returning Kuwaiti weapons if such a request is received through the appropriate channels of the UN secretariat. 'Aziz told him that this issue is minor and trivial, for Iraq has cooperated in the destruction of weapons and in the launching of a future monitoring regime. Moreover, Iraq has recognized the sovereignty and borders of Kuwait, 'Aziz told the UNSC president.

The UNSC president added that Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid had informed him that the information regarding previous programs will be submitted to the UN Special Commission. He added that Iraq has not sought to achieve the capability to produce biological weapons. He added that Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, Foreign Ministry under secretary and member of the Iraqi delegation, reiterated to him that Iraq has submitted to the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in Geneva all available information on the missing Kuwaitis, and that the three-way committee met in Geneva on 8 December. This committee will meet once again on 24-25 January.

Then, the British UN delegate spoke, saying: It appears from the report Ekeus has submitted to the UNSC that despite the progress made in the constant monitoring regime, the problem remains the existence of gaps in the information regarding previous programs. He added that he had met with Tariq 'Aziz the day before yesterday, and that he was pleased with the efforts sponsored by the ICRC regarding the missing Kuwaitis. Nonetheless, more efforts are required to follow up on their whereabouts.

The British delegate welcomed the statement made by Tariq 'Aziz to the effect that Iraq will return Kuwaiti property once the Kuwaitis submit itemized lists of this property. He underscored the British Government's commitment and willingness to examine the possibility of launching a relief effort in accordance with Resolutions 706 and 712, and extend technical assistance to flush the Turkish oil pipeline.

The British UN delegate expressed the hope that wisdom and a humanitarian attitude will prevail. However, he added: The information I have received from London stipulates that the sanctions regime must be maintained during this review session. He said he hoped the UNSC president would make the usual statement in this regard.

In the speeches delivered at yesterday's UNSC session, most speakers supported the remarks made by the UNSC president, saying that Tariq 'Aziz had communicated the same remarks to them.

The Omani UN delegate said that the continuous monitoring regime has provided sufficient guarantees. He was supported in this by the Italian, Indonesian, and PRC delegates, who talked about the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the perpetuation of the sanctions. Germany and Italy noted the importance of bilateral diplomatic efforts to resolve certain issues, such as the efforts made by Russia to ensure the Iraqi recognition of Kuwait.

For his part, the Russian UN delegate expressed the conviction that the past two months have provided yet another example of Iraqi compliance, as witnessed by the report submitted to the UNSC by Ekeus. Ekeus affirmed that the continuous monitoring regime is working efficiently, and expressed the hope that the UN Special Commission will quickly complete its review of the information that Iraq is currently supplying.

The Russian delegate welcomed the outcome of the work of the three-way committee on missing Kuwaitis that convened in Geneva. He added that Russia has extended technical assistance to Iraq in this regard. He expressed the hope that results will emerge soon in this regard.

In his remarks before the UNSC, the Russian delegate underlined the proposal put forward by Russia, France, and other countries in December regarding the need for the UNSC to issue a presidency statement, because the failure to do so will undermine the UNSC's authority. The position of obtaining everything from Iraq before ceding it anything is unreasonable, he said. He added that the adoption of such a position cannot resolve intricate problems in international relations.

The Russian delegate said that he supports the demands for compliance with all UNSC resolutions. However, the UNSC, at the same time, must acknowledge the fact that progress has been made. Had it not been for Iraq's cooperation, this progress would not have been made, he noted.

The Nigerian delegate supported the stand of the Russian delegate, who demanded the rehabilitation of the Russian-French proposal, and the examination of a partial easing of the sanctions in order to encourage Iraq to demonstrate further cooperation. The Nigerian delegate said that he does not support the British delegate's stand regarding the launching of a relief effort in accordance with Resolutions 706 and 712, which are meant to secure funds for the Reparations Committee.

As for the French UN delegate, he welcomed the announcement that the continuous monitoring regime is working efficiently, and wondered about the extent of

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the information that could satisfy the UN Special Commission, saying: When will this commission acknowledge that the information provided is completely sufficient? It is unreasonable that whenever Iraq provides information, this information is branded as insufficient. What are the guarantees the UNSC demands to reach the conclusion that Iraq poses no threats to its neighbors, the French UN delegate asked.

The French envoy expressed satisfaction with the progress made in the meetings of the three-way committee regarding the missing Kuwaitis that convenes in Geneva. He added that France supports the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 if the circumstances so permit. Nonetheless, he said he feels that the time has not yet come for revoking or easing the sanctions, and that he believes that the UNSC president must issue his usual statement at the end of the review session.

The UN delegate from Botswana demanded that the UNSC recognize the progress made, and clearly identify the aspects in which Iraq's compliance has not been complete.

As for U.S. UN delegate Albright, she assailed Iraq, as usual, saying that Iraq announces something, and hides other things. She added that her government is bent on opposing any amendment to the sanctions regime until there is complete compliance.

Afterward, the UNSC president spoke in his capacity as Argentina's delegate, saying: Despite the fact that there is a change in Iraq's position, his country believes that this change is insufficient, particularly with regard to the issue of the missing Kuwaitis and Kuwaiti property. Consequently, his country believes that the circumstances are not yet ripe for a change in the sanctions regime. He added that, in his capacity as UNSC president, he will issue a statement to reporters after the UNSC ends its meeting, explaining this position, which is the outcome of the periodic review session.

Returns From Paris, New York Visits

JN1501152095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz returned to Baghdad today after visiting Paris and New York.

The deputy prime minister held a series of meetings with representatives of the Security Council member states, several envoys at the United Nations, and UN Special Commission head Rolf Ekeus. He discussed the need for the UN Security Council to meet its obligations toward Iraq by lifting the economic blockade in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution No. 687.

Tariq 'Aziz also met in Paris with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe for the same purpose.

At the end of the meeting, Juppe announced that the French Government decided to reopen the French interests section in Baghdad.

Paper Criticizes U.S. 'Antics' at Security Council

JN1401102895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL- JUMHURIYAH has strongly criticized the exposed antics played out by U.S. envoy Madeline Albright at the UN Security Council to convince it to maintain the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq.

In an article published today, the paper ridicules these antics, saying they constitute theatrical acts that are meant to stir a clamor over Iraq now that developments have began to emerge in a manner different from that desired by the administration of death in the black house [reference to the White House], and now that major powers, such as Russia, China, and France, have publicly begun to demand an end to the economic embargo and to stress that Iraq has implemented enough UN Security Council resolutions to introduce a partial lifting of the embargo.

The paper adds: The United States' clamor over Iraq's noncompliance with the UN resolutions is not based on any logic. Its claims were refuted and did not stop Russia, France, China, and other states from continuing with their positions, which run counter to that of the United States.

The paper stresses that the same thing has happened with the silly claim Alright raised last week over the issue of Kuwaiti weapons and vehicles, which she claimed Iraq seized. The paper says: This accusation against Iraq did not diminish the number of those who are showing understanding of its positions. Instead, the new French direction was strengthened, the Russian position advanced, and the Chinese position remained firm. Albright also received a strong blow when the United Arab Emirates defense minister stressed the need for Kuwait to normalize its relations with Iraq and to reconsider its position because Iraq is the only Arab power that can protect the Gulf, and, therefore, the embargo imposed against it must be lifted.

AL-JUMHURIYAH addresses Albright by saying: If you are happy with the fact that the council did not issue a statement or a resolution to lift the economic embargo, you must remember that there are still several more sessions and months of conflict. Do you still have any old issues to raise when the embargo is discussed?

The paper adds: The subject of Kuwaiti weapons and vehicles is a silly one. Although we think it will not be the last of the subjects you raise every time the Security Council starts discussing the embargo, we tell you frankly that the information the U.S. intelligence services will collect and the stories they will fabricate will not stop the wheel that has started rolling; that is the wheel of lifting the embargo.

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Dailies Criticize U.S. Position on UNSC Embargo Review

JN1501151595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—Iraqi newspapers have renewed their condemnation of the anti-Iraq U.S. policy, which is bent on exterminating the Iraqi people through the hateful blockade that has come in the aftermath of the military aggression, in which even shells made of uranium were used.

In their editorials and articles today, the newspapers AL-THAWRAH, AL-JUMHURIYAH, AL-QADISIYAH, and BABIL said the White House and the U.S. intelligence organizations used intimidation and unethical means that are poles apart from traditional diplomatic conduct to pressure several parties to ensure the continuation of the sanctions on Iraq just to promote their colonialist strategy vis-a-vis the region, to continue to drain the oil revenues of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and to deny Iraqi oil access to the international market.

AL-THAWRAH blames Washington for the imposition and perpetuation of the sanctions, saying that by forcing its dictates for the 23d consecutive time, the United States has renewed the Iraq blockade and demonstrated a most peculiar disregard of humanity's mind and conscience.

The paper reiterates that no logic or argument can justify the blockade enforced against 20 million Iraqis, or the killing of thousands of Iraqis, including ill people. This blockade is renewed by promoting lies, falsehoods, and flimsy pretexts regarding missing Kuwaitis and other issues, the paper adds.

The paper appeals to parties that cherish justice, humaneness, and honesty to search their souls and to uphold fairness in order to avert collective genocide and end the protracted blockade enforced against the Iraqi people in the name of international legitimacy.

The paper wonders how the world and the UN Security Council [UNSC] can condone the criminal U.S. conduct and fail to hold Washington responsible for the collective genocide, for the military invasion, for the intervention, and for the blockade.

For its part, AL-JUMHURIYAH says the United States is emulating the judges who tried Galileo and forced him to retract his convictions. It is forcing its erroneous convictions on others, using intimidation and temptation.

In an article today, the paper adds: Since the collapse of the bipolar world after the downfall of the Soviet Union, the United States has been seeking to force its arguments in order to promote its imperialist interests. For instance, it is seeking to convince some Arab rulers that their negotiations with the Zionist entity reflect the wishes of their own peoples.

The paper reiterates that in its practices, which are hostile to Iraq, the Arab nation, and other world nations that cherish national sovereignty, the White House seeks to make weak governments act against their own national interests in order to harm other world peoples. However, this will definitely not prevent these nations from avenging their dignity and rehabilitating their national legacy, the paper notes.

AL-QADISIAYH says the anti-Iraq aggression was a scheme put together at the White House with Mosad's blessings, and at the instigation of aggressive powers.

The paper adds: Bush mistakenly believed his anti-Iraq aggression, which targeted bridges, buildings, health institutions, religious sites, and other civilian and development structures, would bring him lasting glory.

The paper says the pillars of the current U.S. Administration, beginning with Clinton and ending with Albright, are responsible for the continuation of this crime against the Iraqi people. The paper notes that life will go on as long as the mujahid people continue to demonstrate a high degree of steadfastness, to engage in construction, and to hope for a better future.

For its part, BABIL says the United States is the paragon of double standards in modern history.

In an editorial today, the paper says the White House brags that the United States is a great nation with an exemplary system of government. It also boasts about constitutional equality. Nonetheless, the United States remains the epitome of racial discrimination against blacks and others. And, in Washington, the capital, class disparity is horrendous, the paper maintains.

The paper goes on to say: In its foreign policy, the U.S. Administration evokes democracy and human rights, and urges other states to heed them. Meanwhile, it is preventing everybody from acting against its own wishes. In the same vein, it is using military force to repulse anyone who adheres to the sovereignty of his state and the freedom of his people.

BABIL notes the recent UN Security Council periodic review of Iraqi sanctions, saying that the most salient manifestations of the U.S. pursuit of double standards surfaced when U.S. UN Delegate Madeleine Albright refused to endorse a revocation of the Iraq sanctions, claiming Iraq had developed biological weapons.

The paper adds: This position has been exposed by a report compiled by a BBC radio correspondent, who has recently visited Fort Detrick, where biological research is conducted in the State of Maryland.

The British correspondent said the base is developing viruses and bacteria capable of spreading collective genocide at a rapid and horrendous speed.

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Popular Forces Warn of 'Saudi Plots' Against Yemen

JN1501145695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—The General Secretariat of the Arab Popular Forces Conference [APFC] has denounced Riyadh's rulers for conspiring against Yemen and its fraternal people.

In a statement issued today by the General Secretariat, APFC Secretary General Sa'd Qasim Hammudi said Saudi Arabia's military concentrations and its hostile provocations targeted against Yemen's sovereignty are part of the Saudi plots against the Republic of Yemen's territory, people, and future and represent the scandalous Saudi support for the treacherous secessionist clique.

The APFC secretary general urged the vanguards and living forces of the nation to condemn the agent Saudi regime's provocations, to stop the repeated aggressions, to end the policy of gnawing at Yemeni territory, and to return what was usurped in the thirties.

Sa'd Qasim Hammudi stressed that the APFC fully supports fraternal Yemen and its just rights in the face of the covetousness of reactionary and hostile Saudi Arabia.

Radio Cites UK Paper on Businessmen's Visit in Mid-Feb

JN1301202995 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A British paper has said that Britain, which criticized France's recent decision to open an interests section in Baghdad, has secretly given the green light to an important delegation of British businessmen to visit Iraq in mid- February.

In its issue today, THE FINANCIAL TIMES says that a group of commercial lobbyists from an Iraqi-British interests group made arrangements for this visit, having received support from deputies of the ruling Conservative Party.

The paper says that this move by this group is intended to counter the commercial initiatives made by France and other European nations toward Iraq. The paper adds that the group received the necessary permits from the Ministry of Trade and Industry to organize a visit by a delegation of important British firms, mainly specializing in construction, transportation, and pharmaceutical industries.

(Edmund Sike), spokesman for the delegation, told the paper: We know that the Iraqis will use our visit for political propaganda purposes, but we want to conclude trade deals.

INA Reports Collapse of Cease-Fire in North

JN1401193395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—The cease-fire agreement reached between the [Mas'ud] Barzani and [Jalal] Talabani groups in northern Iraq has collapsed. Reliable sources said clashes have erupted again, noting that the deep rift between the two sides has made things reach the point of no return.

The collapse of the agreement came in the aftermath of appeals by Jalal Talabani to his faction today to wipe out the Barzani groups and completely eliminate the Mas'ud Barzani's leadership. Talabani also instructed his groups to end the presence of the Barzani factions in Dahuk and in the entire Kurdistan region.

Mas'ud Barzani's forces today marched on Irbil to recapture it after it had fallen to the Talabani groups and to drive the Talabani groups out.

In light of the tense atmosphere and the bloody rounds awaiting Irbil, many citizens have left the city. Sources said that the citizens who are terrified of the fighting have headed for the villages, countryside, and small cities of Irbil.

In another development, reports from Ankara said Turkish forces are preparing to launch wide-scale air raids on regions adjacent to the Turkish border in view of reports that the Kurdish Workers Party, PKK, has recently set up bases there.

SAIRI Leader Attempting To Revitalize Opposition to Saddam

LD1501180195 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1635 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran, 15 Jan—Ayatullah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI, Shi'i opposition group], left for London today on a working visit, leading a high-ranking delegation of members of SAIRI and its central shura [consultative] council.

In a statement before his departure, al-Hakim said that the main objective of his visit to Britain is to exchange views with Iraqi opposition groups and figures based in London on a political plan of many points aimed at revitalizing Iraqi opposition action to confront Saddam Husayn's regime. Al-Hakim did not say anything about the plan, but he said that it relies mainly on the role the Iraqi people must play in bringing down the regime. Al-Hakim added that the plan will first be submitted to the Iraqi opposition before it is circulated.

In reply to a question, al-Hakim said that his itinerary does not include formal meetings with British officials, but he did not dismiss meetings with British officials and politicians.

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PUK Official on Number Killed in Fighting in North

NC1501202495 Paris AFP in English 1952 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 15 (AFP)—Fierce fighting in and around the main town in Kurdish-held northern Iraq has left about 55 people dead and 100 wounded, a local official told AFP Sunday [15 January].

Kosrat Rassoul [spelling as received], a politburo member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the appointed prime minister of the Kurdish-held area, told AFP by telephone from Irbil that the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) had been bombing the town since late Saturday [14 January].

"Blind bombing from KDP positions left 20 civilians dead and 100 wounded," he said.

He added that fighting for control of the Kaznavan hills which overlook the town where the KDP said it had achieved a breakthrough had "left close to 35 fighters dead" on both sides since Saturday.

Kurdish officials said earlier that renewed fighting had flared for control of Irbil leaving "dozens of dead" and shattering a three-day lull.

Officials in Tehran said the KDP led by Mas'ud Barzani had launched a new offensive on Saturday against the PUK headed by Jalal Talabani, taking control of several areas near Irbil.

In London, a PUK official earlier acknowledged the KDP had taken "some pockets" in the suburbs of Irbil, the seat of an Iraqi Kurdish parliament, but he said the main thrust of the assault was repelled.

The KDP had left behind "dozens of dead" on the ground, Sami Shurash told the London-based Arabic newspaper Al-Hayah.

"Fierce fighting is going on. Both sides have reported victims," said the Kurdistan Information Centre, also based in London.

Al-Hayah said Barzani refused to abide by a ceasefire brokered on January 8 by the Iraqi National Congress (INC) opposition alliance unless Talabani withdrew his forces from Irbil which they captured in late December.

Ahmad Shalabi, head of the INC, has broken off his mediation in protest at the renewed bloodshed after a lull since Wednesday [11 January], the newspaper added.

The Kurds have controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf War, with backing from the US- led coalition which ousted Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

The KDP and PUK, which previously shared power, clashed many times last year in a bitter struggle for supremacy. The PUK is stronger in the southern part of the Kurdish area, while the KDP's main base is to the north near Turkey.

Cabinet Discusses Situation in Kurdistan Region

JN1601133595 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has said that the achievement of a cohesive relationship between the state's departments and people is made possible when the answers these departments provide citizens are convincing. This goal is unachievable unless there is dialogue, and unless there are clear ideas, plans, and courses of action.

His excellency the president added: Man does not develop unless he is confronted with hurdles. Similarly, he cannot achieve results unless he interacts with others needs and demonstrates a sense of responsibility. Hence, we should not overlook ideas and proposals, or be bothered by them. This is because new ideas and proposals provoke a broad-based perspective, and consequently provide the proper climate, as well as the capability to make proper decisions.

These remarks were made by leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, when he presided over the fourth session of the Council of Ministers.

During its fourth session this year, the Council of Ministers debated the topics listed on its agenda, which included some organizational and legislative issues.

Having debated the topics listed on the agenda, the Council of Ministers reviewed the fighting and pillage of property caused by the parties vying for local power in the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan. This fighting is fostered by tendencious states and espionage networks created by the United States and Zionism in the region, not to mention other networks that are known to neighboring countries.

The Council of Ministers expressed sadness over the grave losses in human lives, and also over the destruction and pillage of the residents' personal property and public property as well.

The Council of Ministers urges all parties to be mindful of the games of foreigners and tendencious parties. Similarly, it urges all of them to learn useful lessons from the experience of the past few years so they may opt for national solutions that could halt once and for all all these painful incidents and situations and promote Iraq's unity.

The Council of Ministers further reiterated that the leadership is still very tolerant and can understand and consider any serious national initiative. Its basic option remains to search for a peaceful national solution that could promote stability and security in the Autonomous

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Region of Kurdistan and bring about peace and tranquility for its residents under the canopy of a strong national unity.

PUK's Talabani Said To Declare 'All-Out War' on Mas'ud

NC1601140795 Paris AFP in English 1240 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 16 (AFP)—Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani has declared "all-out war" in northern Iraq on the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of his rival Mas'ud Barzani, sources close to the KDP said Monday [16 January].

They said Talabani who heads the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) broadcast a call over radio stations for "all-out war to clean Kurdistan of the KDP."

A fierce artillery battle was raging on Monday around the main town in Iraqi Kurdistan, which is controlled by the Kurds in defiance of Baghdad, Kurdish sources in Tehran said.

As the battle raged, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on Monday offered to hold talks with the Kurdish opposition. Baghdad Radio said the offer came after a meeting of his cabinet.

A PUK official said late Sunday [15 January] that fighting in and around Irbil had left around 55 dead and 100 wounded over the weekend.

The clashes erupted just hours after a ceasefire agreement hammered out in the local Kurdish parliament, which sits in Irbil, a source here close to the KDP told AFP.

"The PUK violated this agreement. They attacked the KDP headquarters in Irbil and also the media center of the KDP in Irbil," he said, asking not to be named.

The source charged that Talabani's forces also used long-range artillery against the hill-top town of Salahadin, where Barzani has his headquarters. "But they didn't hit any target."

The KDP retaliated by attacking the PUK headquarters in Irbil, he said.

Kosrat Rasul of the PUK said by telephone from Irbil that the KDP had been bombing the town since late Saturday [14 January]. "Blind bombing from KDP positions left 20 civilians dead and 100 wounded," he said.

He added that fighting for control of the Kaznavan hills which overlook the town where the KDP said it had achieved a breakthough had "left close to 35 fighters dead" on both sides.

KDP member Jawhar Namiq Salim told the London-based Saudi television station MBC that his group had "retaken several hills" around Irbil from the PUK.

Barzani insists on Talabani withdrawing his forces from Irbil which they captured in late December, according to the London-based Arabic newspaper AL-HAYAT.

The Kurds have controlled northern Iraq since the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf War, with backing from the US-led coalition which ousted Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

The KDP and PUK, which previously shared power, have clashed many times since last May in a bitter struggle for supremacy leaving between 100 and 500 people dead since December 24, according to Kurdish officials.

Kurdish Leader on Baghdad's Mediation, Irbil Fighting

JN1601182895 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the Political Bureau of the Mas'ud Barzani-led KDP by Kamal Tarabayh on 16 January; place not given; broadcast in progress—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-Rahman] In fact, we were not notified of that subject in advance at all. I have seen this view of the Iraqi Government only a few minutes ago before, I phoned you. We were not notified of that issue in advance.

[Tarabayh] So this means that if this information is confirmed, you in the KDP would accept Baghdad's mediation?

['Abd-al-Rahman] I do not think that such mediation is visible. We think that the fair mediator who has a genuine interest in putting an end to the infighting is the Unified Iraqi National Congress.

[Tarabayh] Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, what is the truth about the current military situation, especially in Irbil?

['Abd-al-Rahman] In fact, the KDP [Kurdistan Democratic Party] scored major victories in the past few days. I do not know if the term liberation is correct here, but Guman District and Galalah and (?Qasri) subdistricts were liberated. Thus, Irbil Governorate from its outskirts in (?Shawayth) to the Iranian borders and the important strategic road, which is called the Hamilton Road, are now under control of KDP. Additionally, the KDP regained Kaznavan, the main neighborhood between Salah-al-Din and Irbil, which was taken by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan through deceit at the beginning of the events. The KDP's influence inside the city of Irbil was strengthened.

[Tarabayh] This means you are confirming that the KDP's fighters regained the entire city of Irbil?

['Abd-al-Rahman] No, I do not confirm that. But the KDP's fighters are encircling Irbil and are taking care not to open fire on Irbil. They are getting closer to the

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city and its neighborhoods by regaining the strategic neighborhood of Kaznavan.

Official Meets UN Envoy on KDP-Imposed Siege

NC1601162395 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The governor of al-Sulaymaniyah yesterday met with the director of the UN office in the governorate. The governor and the UN official discussed the current situation in the al-Sulaymaniyah governorate and the surrounding areas in light of the economic siege imposed on the area by the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP]. The governor explained that the siege had triggered an increase in the food prices. The governor requested the UN office director to [word indistinct] and lift the siege on the area, which continues to suffer from the dual UN-'Aflaqite blockade.

For his part, the UN office director voiced his extreme concern for the KDP fighters' seizure of the UN foodstuff convoy, which was heading toward al-Sulaymaniyah. The UN office director pledged to convey the demands to the concerned parties.

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Beilin Sees 'War of Words' With Egypt, No Real Danger

TA1501090595 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 15 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Ya'el Dan and Mikha Friedman; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dan] Israeli-Egyptian relations sank to a new low at the end of the week, judging by the exchange of remarks between the two countries. President Mubarak's adviser Usamah al-Baz referred to the possibility of a future war between Israel and the Arab states if there is a change in circumstances. Following an Israeli Foreign Ministry paper calling for punitive measures against Egypt for its hesitant attitude toward Israel, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said certain Israeli Foreign Ministry officials suffer from mental retardation. Good morning, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Good morning.

[Dan] Do you think our relations with Egypt are facing an unprecedented low?

[Beilin] No, no. The situation is very far from that. There is an interesting and unprecedented development in relations with Egypt in many fields, especially in the economic and tourism fields. It is a pity that some things were presented the way they were, and I am sure both sides will put things in the right perspective very quickly. There is no danger of war between the two countries. There is some sort of war of words, and I hope we have heard the last of the harsh tones in this war.

[Friedman] But if Israel is preparing for war in the middle or long run, why should Egypt not?

[Beilin] There is the question in principle of a theoretical threat in the Middle East: to ascertain the immediate, medium-range, and longer-range threats. I believe there is a big difference between that and talk of a war, God forbid, with Egypt. I do not think any of us think war with Egypt is possible within any reasonable time frame, unless there are far-reaching changes in all the regimes in the region, and then nothing is impossible. Despite all the talk, however, relations between the two states will improve significantly. We can point to a series of things that occurred for the first time in the past year.

[Dan] Are Musa's remarks about the mental retardation of Foreign Ministry officials just an undiplomatic expression or should they be taken more seriously?

[Beilin] I cannot tell you I am pleased about those remarks. The truth is that a document prepared by the Planning Department was leaked. That department has people who write whatever they please, and I want to continue to encourage them to do so, because you cannot maintain a system like ours without freedom of expression in preparing such papers, on condition that they are not leaked. There was no plan to weaken ties with Egypt. A member of the department wrote something definitely interesting. I and other do not accept it, but it is definitely legitimate. There is a big difference, however, between that and turning it into an Israeli policy paper. I regret the fact that the paper was leaked, and I understand that was the background to the Egyptian foreign minister's remark.

[Friedman, laughing] Will you reassure 'Amr Musa by promising that Foreign Ministry officials will undergo psychometric tests and assuring him that their psychological state is sound?

[Beilin, laughing] It is not so easy to be accepted to the Foreign Ministry's intern program. I really very much regret the leak. I cannot ignore it. I understand that such a report does not make the other side happy.

[Dan] Then, neither the Foreign Ministry nor Israel has any intention of punishing Egypt in any way?

[Beilin] No, no. There is no intention of punishing it. We do not operate such a punitive system. I think that if we take into account the ties between the two sides on the personal level, the thousands of tourists arriving in Israel for the first time, and the most recent invitation to the Cairo trade fair, all these indicate that there has been a significant improvement in relations. By the way, it is possible that the improvement in ties and the fact that Israelis and Egyptians interact more can arouse in Egypt new feelings, and perhaps even concern, that they are being exaggerated. It is possible that normalization has created a feeling among some members of the Egyptian leadership that they might have gone too far. This is especially so against the background of Syria's refusal to date to play a more intensive role in the political process. The Egyptians are concerned that it might harm the chances of bringing Syria into the process, as the Egyptian president said when he noted that if he visits Israel now, Syria will put off its joining an intensive political process for a year.

Rabin Sends Mubarak 'Urgent Wire' on War Remarks

TA1501185495 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Jan 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister tonight dispatched an urgent wire to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in an attempt to iron out the problems between the two countries. The wire was sent in the wake of remarks made by Usamah al-Baz, Mubarak's adviser, who said Arab countries should be prepared for the possibility of war with Israel.

Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen notes that Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin has spoken to al-Baz himself.

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Mubarak, Weizman Agree on High-Level Talks

TA1701094995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky and Batsheva Tsur]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] President 'Ezer Weizman and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak agreed last night on the need to ease tensions in the strained bilateral relationship, according to senior Israeli officials.

Other officials said they expect the phone conversation, which was initiated by Weizman and lasted 15 minutes, to be followed up by a meeting between Mubarak and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Rabin was briefed by Weizman on the conversation at Bet Hanasi.

"The phone conversation was designed to ease tensions," said presidential bureau chief Arye Shumer.

"There was an agreement on high-level consultations to follow, and there is reason to believe that there will be a Mubarak-Rabin meeting. The exact date of the meeting has not been set," another official said.

"Weizman noted that extremists on both sides are seeking to harm the peace process, but the time has come to restore normal, good working relations," Shumer added.

Weizman said he wanted the bilateral atmosphere to reflect the good feeling he felt during his visit to Cairo last month.

An official in the Prime Minister's Office said there is a need to thaw "the freeze" between Israel and Egypt.

A senior Israeli official speculated that the Mubarak-Rabin meeting could take place in Israel. He said such a visit, should it occur, would not be a standard official visit to Jerusalem. Mubarak has refused to visit Israel since becoming president more than 13 years ago.

One source suggested that their meeting might take place in Taba and/or Elat. [passage omitted]

Report Notes 'Unpredictable' Future With Egypt

TA1701093995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Jan 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The annual report compiled by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch notes that Egypt accelerated its military buildup in the past year, and this fact is causing concern. Egypt used U.S. aid to purchase sophisticated Western weapons, its military manpower grew, and outdated equipment was taken out of use.

Analysts noted that while there is currently no danger of a military confrontation with Egypt, "we must remember that this arena is liable to develop in unpredictable directions within 10-15 years."

It was further noted that Egypt's newly procured equipment includes F-16 aircraft and Abrams M-1 tanks—equipment Arab countries did not have in the past.

According to Israel's information, Egypt has a total of 2,750 tanks. The number of its combat aircraft dropped from 515 last year to 460 this year, but the Egyptians received 125 advanced F-16's and are expected to receive 50 more such aircraft. In addition, Egypt has ordered 24-36 Apache gunships. The Egyptian Navy is negotiating the purchase of two new submarines, in addition to the eight submarines in its possession.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin will visit Cairo at the beginning of next week. He will meet with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in an attempt to ease the recent tension between Egypt and Israel.

Beilin said yesterday that "the talk about war is not serious, and the recently published exchanges of accusations are totally out of proportion to the actual situation."

At a meeting with foreign correspondents, Beilin noted that "Israeli-Egyptian relations are the cornerstone of any Middle East structure. Egypt has played a key role in the peace process with the Palestinians, and I not do see how peace in our region can be achieved unless Egypt continues to play that role." Beilin revealed that Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian president's adviser, called him and clarified this point.

The Foreign Ministry directors yesterday continued the debate on the Planning Department paper recommending steps against Egypt if it adheres to its negative conduct toward Israel. The paper provoked furious reactions in Egypt.

David Afeq, head of the Foreign Ministry's Center for Political Research, has said that since Egypt may believe the paper was published in the media with the consent of the senior political echelons, an effort should be made to explain to Egypt that the paper does not reflect the Israeli position. Afeq emphasized Egypt's central role in the political process and in Israel's ties with the Arab world.

At a debate at the Foreign Ministry on 15 January, Director General Uri Savir recommended that the idea to establish a Middle East council for regional security and cooperation should be abandoned in the wake of Egypt's negative stand. He asserted that the Egyptians will link any progress in the development of regional security ties to Israel's endorsement of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, thereby blocking all progress on the council's other tracks, such as economic cooperation and human relations between nations. [passage omitted]

Intelligence Assessment on Syria, Iran, Iraq, Palestinians

TA1701094495 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Jan 95 p 5

[Report by Roni Sofer]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The General Staff convened yesterday to hear the Intelligence Branch's annual assessment, which will determine the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] operational policy for 1995. It dealt with several key subjects: the Arab issue, terrorism, the Palestinians, and Middle East peace processes.

In the meeting, which went on for approximately six hours, the Intelligence Branch chiefs and the heads of the various desks presented their assessments on Middle East states. The assessment will probably be presented to the cabinet next Sunday.

On Syria, the Intelligence Branch evaluation says that "Syria wants peace but, at the same time, continues to arm itself with conventional weapons and surface-to-surface missiles." The head of the Intelligence Branch and the officer in charge of the Syrian desk expressed concern over Syrian armament. Major General Uri Sagi, head of the Intelligence Branch, believes 1995 will be decisive for the peace process with Syria. The General Staff top brass were told about the processes Syria is undergoing and the contacts Israel is conducting with President Hafiz al-Asad.

Terrorism took up a large part of the deliberations. The Intelligence Branch dealt only with what is called external terrorism, which will continue to constitute a threat in the coming year. Terrorism is expected to escalate as long as the peace process continues.

The discussions on Iran focused on the nuclear threat. According to the Intelligence Branch's assessment, Iran might manufacture an active nuclear bomb within eight to 10 years; however, if Iran obtains a ready-made bomb, the process could be seriously shortened. Concern was expressed about Iranian attempts to arm itself with conventional weapons, such as surface-to-surface missiles, as well, and about the aid Western firms are giving Iran, contrary to the positions of their governments.

There is also a nuclear threat from Iraq. Saddam Husayn wants to manufacture a nuclear bomb, but the Intelligence Branch assessment says that if the UN supervision is not lifted, it will not be able to do so. On the other hand, if it is lifted, such a threat does exist. It was also reported that Iraq is trying to arm itself with conventional weapons, apparently in addition to the arsenal it has hidden since the Gulf war.

On the Palestinian issue, concern was expressed about the economic situation of the Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Jordan, Israel Finalize Energy Appendix to Treaty

TA1601141095 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (MAMON supplement) in Hebrew 16 Jan 95 p 5

[Report by Dani Sade]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of last week, the Jordanian and Israeli delegations finalized the addendum on energy and natural resources attached to the peace treaty between the two countries.

The appendix was reviewed by Energy and Infrastructure Minister Gonen Segev and Jordanian Energy Minister Samih Darwazah. The document includes clauses on cooperation in the sale of crude oil and its derivatives, building an oil and gas pipe system between the two countries, research and development in the field of solar energy and oil shale, connecting both countries' electricity grids, and various geological, geophysical, and oceanographic surveys.

Commentary Views Perry Visit, Discord on Iran

TA1401142895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Jan 95 p 9

[Commentary by Steve Rodan: "What the US Is Whispering to Israel About Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel and the US are engaged in a debate over Iran's nuclear capability.

Echoing the argument over Iraq's nonconventional prowess in 1990, Washington and Jerusalem sharply disagree over how close Iran is to acquiring a nuclear weapon. US and Israeli officials say the subject was a major point of discussion during Defense Secretary William Perry's two-day visit this week.

The disagreement has intensified in recent weeks and calls into question the extent of future US military aid and strategic ties to Israel. Officials here say Washington might hesitate to fulfill Israel's security requests if it does not share Jerusalem's view of the immediacy of the Iranian threat.

As a result, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and his military aides pressed the issue of the threat. Perry and his entourage responded by urging Israel to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], scheduled for renewal in April.

By the end of the visit, some Israeli officials were frustrated. "Perry understands technology very well, and that was helpful in explaining some of our needs (for military hardware)," a senior defense source said. "But when it came to our intelligence briefings, he seemed lost. We could have done away with all of them."

Both countries agree that, left alone, Iran is years away from developing a nuclear weapon. Perry and Rabin said that Tehran would need between seven and 15 years to produce an atomic bomb.

The difference in assessments concern Iran's ability to acquire foreign aid. Israel has concluded that—given current assistance from China, North Korea and Russia—Iran could achieve nuclear capability by mid-1996. Israel argues that the combination of nuclear aid from these three countries and sophisticated dual technology provided by Germany—civilian technology which can

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be adapted for military purposes—has brought Iran extremely close to having all the elements of a bomb.

Rabin made it clear that Iran could surprise the West with nuclear weapons the same way North Korea did last year. "If they (Iranians) get outside help, you can't give any assessment," said Rabin, who was careful not to disagree with Perry, at a joint press conference on Monday.

US intelligence assessments, however, are that despite Iranian efforts to obtain nuclear technology, Tehran is still at least a decade away from its target. Some Pentagon analysts maintain the Iranians are so technologically backward that, even with all of the parts, they will be unable to build a bomb themselves.

Israeli officials were hoping that Rabin, who also serves as defense minister, would be able to persuade Perry that Iran is far more advanced in its nuclear program than both countries had thought only months ago. Over the last few weeks, Washington acknowledged that North Korean military assistance to Tehran had been more substantial than it previously believed.

US officials now confirm assertions by South Korean intelligence that Tehran has received the medium-range Nodong missile from North Korea, capable of striking Israel from Iran. They add that the smuggling of nuclear equipment from the former Soviet Union to Iran and other countries with ambitions to achieve nuclear capability has been easier than expected.

Privately, senior US officials say their efforts to stop even an ally such as Germany from halting its supply of dual technology to Iran have failed. The officials say Germany regards Iran's ambitions to turn nuclear as America's problem. This despite the fact that "Iran is making a very aggressive military effort across the board," to quote Richard Perle, former assistant defense secretary in the Reagan administration.

But publicly Perry played down the Iranian threat, saying that the US is working hard with Russia and several other republics of the former Soviet Union to prevent the flow of nuclear equipment or technology. "I don't think there is any likelihood of it getting to Iran," Perry said.

Moreover, US officials made it clear that they were not swayed by the latest Iranian deals to acquire nuclear technology. On Sunday, Russia was awarded an $800 million deal to complete construction of an Iranian nuclear facility where work was halted by the 1979 Islamic revolution.

"There has been no change in US assessments of Iran," a Defense Department aide to Perry said this week.

But the officials, including Perry, maintain that only a concerted international effort will ensure that Iran is unable to complete the development of a nuclear weapon. Such an effort will fail, they say, unless Israel commits itself to signing the NPT, to which Iran is a signatory. It's an argument that Israel is also hearing from European officials.

Egypt, the first stop on Perry's tour, has threatened not to sign the accord unless Israel does so as well. Moreover, Cairo is trying to recruit other developing countries which are signatories to the agreement to adopt the same position.

Israel argues that the NPT has proven to be ineffective in stopping nuclear proliferation. Officials point out that Iran, Iraq and North Korea have signed the NPT, and they either have or are secretly developing nuclear weapons.

Instead, Rabin has proposed that Israel create a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East by signing peace and nonconventional- disarmament accords with all the countries in the region. Quietly, US and Israeli officials are exploring several ideas, one of which has Israel announcing its commitment to sign the NPT at an as-yet-unspecified date, while meanwhile agreeing to end production of nuclear materials.

Israeli officials say US attempts to link the NPT with the campaign to stop Iran from going nuclear reflects Washington's naivete. They recall US assurances over the past three years that Israel's signing of other arms-control agreements would result in its Arab neighbors following suit.

Defense Ministry Director-General David 'Ivri recalls US pressure for Israel to sign the Chemical Weapons Convention [CWC], banning the production and proliferation of such weapons. Jerusalem announced in 1992 that it would sign and did so a year later.

'Ivri says the US also promised that Israel would share the benefits of belonging to the organization set up by the convention, which so far has been snubbed by many developing countries.

Instead, Israel has remained isolated. For 18 months, 'Ivri says, Israel has been unable to join any of the CWC regional groups—where policy is discussed—because of opposition by Iran and Australia, which say Israel doesn't belong in either Asia or Europe.

"After we participated, we became nothing," 'Ivri said.

An Israeli official who specializes in arms control says a compromise is taking shape whereby Israel will be able to join the European group.

Maj.-Gen. 'Uzi Dayan, speaking last month at a seminar organized by Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, said 1995 will be the year of Israeli decision to stop nuclear weapons in the Middle East. He warned against believing that a nuclear Iran will not use its weapons.

"We are in an area where the rationality of leaders is called into doubt," he said.

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But this is exactly what the Iranians don't want Israel to believe.

Prof. Amatzya Bar'am of Haifa University participated in some talks with Iranians, which took place in Washington in September. He says the Iranians were disturbed over Israel's campaign against Tehran.

"They told me, 'What does it bother you what we're doing?'" Bar'am said. " 'We have nothing against you, and what we say publicly is not serious.'"

Bar'am recalls giving the following response: "You can develop weapons and make peace with us, or you can engage in hostile rhetoric and stop your nuclear program. You can't do both."

The Haifa professor is skeptical that the US will be able to stop Tehran despite what he regards as considerable efforts by Washington.

"Dual containment is very partial," Bar'am said, referring to the US policy of preventing Iraq and Iran from going nuclear. "When it comes to Iran, it is very, very limited."

Former Prime Minister Shamir on End of Gulf War

TA1501163095 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 Jan 95

[Studio interview with Former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by correspondent Amir Oren on 13 January—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Oren] Mr. Shamir, after the Israeli Government reacted passively during the war, did you think it was a wise step on the part of the Arab-Western alliance to allow Saddam Husayn to remain in his seat?

[Shamir] Well, that is a story of its own. When we heard about the U.S. President's decision to stop the war and to leave Saddam Husayn in his seat, it will be no exaggeration to say we almost fell off our seats. No one expected it; it was a big surprise. We had been sure that the defeat dealt to Iraq would terminate Saddam Husayn's insane rule.

[Oren] Do you think Israel should have contemplated an independent action to terminate his rule?

[Shamir] Look, I do not think Israel can do things of this kind. We have to know the limitations of our power and to remember what is more important and what is more marginal. [passage omitted]

Ministry Concerned Over Chechnya, Ready To Send Aid

TA1601092695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel is prepared to extend humanitarian aid to the residents of war-ravaged Chechnya, after the matter is coordinated with the Russian authorities. This was announced in a Foreign Ministry communique published this morning.

The communique voices profound concern about the situation in Chechnya and particularly about the harm caused to civilians. Israel calls on the Russian Government to make every effort to settle the crisis in peaceful ways.

Curfew Imposed on Hebron Center After Missile Attack

TA1501091595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A curfew has been imposed on the center of Hebron after a LAW [light antitank weapon] missile, which did not contain explosives, was fired at Bet Schneerson this morning. The missile penetrated a window in the kitchen of one of the apartments and hit a wall. Nobody was wounded but damage was caused.

Our correspondent Dani Zaqen notes that some 10 LAW missiles of the kind launched in Hebron today were stolen from an army base in the al-Nabi Musa area three months ago, and the traces led to Jericho. Army sources said the possibility that one of these missiles was used at Bet Schneerson this morning is being investigated.

Settler Leader : Palestinian Prisoners To Be Released

TA1301182295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Gaza Regional Council head, Tzvi Handel, says he has learned that hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and detainees will be released at the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan. This, he said, would take place within the next few weeks. Handel claimed that among those to be released are prisoners who have killed Jews. He said that such a large-scale prisoner release would cause a further deterioration of the security situation, particularly in the territories themselves.

Rabin Suspends Construction in Territories for 1 Week

TA1501173695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister has announced that construction in the territories will be suspended until the cabinet holds a discussion on the issue in one week's time. Mr. Rabin added, however, that the construction work on bypass roads in the territories will continue. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Mr. Rabin made this announcement at Minister Shulamit Aloni's request, since the government had not held a scheduled debate on construction in settlements.

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Our political correspondent further reports that Minister Sarid revealed at the cabinet meeting that Foreign Minister Peres had informed Yasir 'Arafat during their most recent meeting that in the future, he will inform him whenever land is confiscated for the construction of security roads in the territories.

Rabin Authorizes Land Expropriation for Bypass Roads

TA1601141895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the government will reach a decision on Sunday [22 January] with regard to future construction at settlements in the Jerusalem area, such as Ma'ale Adumim.

Speaking at a meeting of the Labor Knesset faction, Yitzhaq Rabin said that he had authorized the authorities to start expropriating land for the building of four roads in Judaea and Samaria.

Two of the roads will bypass Ramallah, another will bypass Hebron, and the fourth will bypass Tulkarm. Rabin described these routes as security roads.

Rabin: Bush Told of No Ban on Private Building

TA1701160895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that according to the Jerusalem Law, Ma'ale Adumim, Betar, and Giv'at Ze'ev are not part of Greater Jerusalem and that the building restrictions Israel undertook before the United States apply to them. In contrast, there is no problem with construction in areas such as Har Homa and Shu'fat, which will be given high priority.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Mr. Rabin made these remarks in an address to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. The prime minister nevertheless emphasized that at the time he had informed President George Bush that he would not ban Jews from carrying out private construction in Judaea and Samaria.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 17 January carries a recorded passage of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks regarding construction in the territories in which he says: "We are committed to the government's Resolution No. 360 from November 1992 in which we decided to change the national order of priorities. The decision calls for a halt in investments except for what is required in order to keep the settlements alive." The report also notes that "the prime minister stressed that natural growth was not meteoric in scope."]

Minister on Building Plans, Expansion, Bypass Roads

TA1701065995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Me'ir Einstein on 17 January; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Einstein] An hour ago, I interviewed Minister Ben-Eli'ezer, who is due to present the cabinet next week with a report on plans for building in the territories in the coming year.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I am putting on the cabinet table everything I have to say, and something astounding will become apparent: Nothing we are going to do this year is new, at least according to my interpretation, and has not actually been going on for many years. If somebody decides that Ma'ale Adumim can be given up, good for him. I hope you heard me. If somebody thinks Giv'at Ze'ev can be given up and the construction there stopped, good for him. If somebody thinks Betar should be stopped, good for him. I want to tell you that the uproar is part of a Palestinian strategy—and we should pay attention to it—to demonstrate over each piece of land. I do not want to discuss the grave political repercussions. Everything I have to say I will say to the entire cabinet. I read the Peace Now report, and I was shocked. I heard the deliberate attack against the cabinet by certain elements, particularly Peace Now, and it is frightening. I do not know what all the yelling is about. Did we keep construction in Ma'ale Adumim a secret? Did we keep building on Giv'at Ze'ev a secret? The report will be written and presented on Sunday. It will, of course, be made public. Before that happens, I refuse to go into details.

[Einstein] Sir, you are hinting—although you are not prepared to go into the details before presenting the plan to the cabinet—about building only in what is called Greater Jerusalem.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I think your definition is precise. We did not build and are not building Qedumim. If the local council head took upon himself the right to build, then there are proper authorities to deal with that. It is not within my jurisdiction.

[Einstein] Does that mean that private building can be carried out in the territories without permits from the Construction and Housing Ministry?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Listen to what I am telling you once again: Everybody is free to build. That is why we have authorities. Each person is free to build inside Israel on land on which there is no controversy, whether in Rishon Lezi-iyyon or Petah Tiqva or Jerusalem. For that, there are proper authorities. What are they complaining about? Roads that are supposed to save Jewish blood from being spilled? Roads that are supposed to prevent friction? Roads that cost tens of millions of shekels?

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[Einstein] In reference to the roads you are discussing, our political correspondent reported this morning that senior political elements received a report that some of those roads are unnecessary from a security point of view.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I want to tell you that what has been approved, following many recommendations, is a total of three or four roads, which are meant to prevent a great deal of friction. I will add something annoying: They are meant to prevent pictures like those taken when the Arabs tried to lynch the soldier in Ramallah a few weeks ago.

[Einstein] Do you expect the cabinet to approve your plan on building in what you call Greater Jerusalem?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I hope with all my heart that emotions will not get the better of rational thinking and that the cabinet will listen attentively to what I will present. I am a member of a democratic government, however, and I will honor any decision. I find it hard to believe that my plan will not be approved, but I will honor any decision.

Minister Shetrit Attends Efrata Ceremony

TA1601114795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] One of this morning's tree-planting ceremonies, at Efrata in the 'Etzyon Bloc, saw Labor Cabinet Minister Shim'on Shetrit placing the first sapling into the ground. This was at Hazayit Hill, where the Efrata settlers have been given government permission to construct a housing complex instead of on the disputed nearby hilltop of Hatamar Hill. At the site, our reporter Amy Rhodes asked Shetrit why he was planting trees in such a controversial place:

[Begin recording] [Shetrit] This is one of the areas which is part of the security zones that must remain within the sovereignty of Israel. It is Greater Jerusalem. Whoever wants to defend Jerusalem must maintain these areas and, I think, the 'Etzyon Bloc and the Greater Jerusalem and all the areas surrounding Jerusalem are part of our platform, upon which we asked the confidence of the public in 1992, and we won the confidence. We have to make it very clear that it will not be any item of ambiguity, that this is our position.

[Rhodes] We saw what happened with Hatamar Hill. Right now, we are at what is termed the compromise hill, Hazayit Hill. I wanted to know: This is still disputed land, and although you say that this was the platform upon which the Labor was voted into power, this land may one day not be under Israeli sovereignty.

[Shetrit] Whoever disputes, from our point of view, this land is disputing Jerusalem. [end recording]

Israeli soldiers were called in this morning to restore order after a clash between settlers and Palestinian villagers at Oranit, near Qalqilyah. The confrontation erupted when the villagers tried to move a fence, and one of the settlers fired a shot in the air. The Palestinians were protesting what they claimed was land seizure in the area.

Settlers Declare U.S. Consular Staff 'Persona Non Grata'

TA1601084995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Herb Keinon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Settlement leaders declared US consular officials persona non grata yesterday, calling upon settlements to bar their gates to them and their Arab escorts monitoring Jewish building beyond the Green Line.

The directives, issued by the Council of Jewish Communities in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, came "following attempts by employees of the American Consulate in East Jerusalem, escorted by Arabs, to enter settlements in Judaea and Samaria to 'check' building in these areas."

According to the directives, the settlements should not, "under any conditions, allow these spies to enter the gates of our settlements."

Council spokesman Aharon Domb said the directives followed visits late last week to Shilo and Talmon. He denied that the settlements had anything to hide: "If they would have turned to us first, it would have been one thing. What we object to is their doing it in a sneaky fashion, like thieves in the night."

The US Embassy employs an official in Jerusalem whose duties include monitoring building in the settlements. In the past, there has been cooperation between this official and local regional council heads.

Asked whether the settlements can legally bar entry to US diplomatic officials, Domb said: "We can keep the Arabs from entering."

The US Embassy and Consulate do not work on Sunday, and it was not possible to obtain an official response.

The Foreign Ministry said it had not received any complaints from the settlers or the US Consulate over the issue.

The directives also say that violence should not be used against the diplomats, but attempts should be made to "detain the terrorists accompanying them."

These directives, however, were not made known to the heads of all the settlements. Shlomo Qatan, the head of the Alfey Menashe local council said last night that the directives had not reached him.

Qatan said he would gladly let the diplomats into his settlements "to see how Jews build up the Land of Israel, even if it angers them."

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Regarding the Arab escorts, Qatan said he would have to check if they were PLO-affiliated. If they were, he said, they would be denied access.

Settlement Expansion Said Danger To Peace Process

TA1401173795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Labor Party Secretary General Nisim Zvili says the settlers are treading a thin line between legal and illegal activities and are doing everything they can to expand the settlements in order to foil the political process.

Zvili claims that those who do not understand that expansion and annexation of the settlements contradict the Oslo agreements do not understand what was signed there. According to the agreements, this area will not be part of Israel, therefore there is no point in investing funds there.

Nisim Zvili explained that the Elqana and Efrata events, as well as what is expected to take place in 'Aley Zahav, endanger the peace process. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Mr. Zvili made these remarks at a Labor young guard meeting in Ef'al.

Ministry Reports 77% Rise in Settlement Activity

TA1601193195 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Jan 95

[Correspondents Ilan Lazarovich and 'Imanu'el Rosen video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although government ministers have still not received the official figures, Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer will soon hand a report to the cabinet. The report shows that the current government, which declared a halt to settlements, will increase construction in the territories by 77 percent in 1995 as compared to 1994. The details of the report reached our correspondents Ilan Lazarovich and 'Imanu'el Rosen:

[Rosen] At the next cabinet session, Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer will present a report entitled Construction and Housing Ministry Building in the Territories in 1995. This is the report most eagerly anticipated by the Meretz ministers who initiated its compilation and the impending cabinet debate. The report notes a 77-percent increase in construction in the territories during 1995 as compared to the previous year. The details prove that most of this construction will take place in the Jerusalem area: approximately 900 apartments in Betar as compared to 1,026 in 1994; 1,080 in Ma'ale Adumim as opposed to 797; 800 new housing units in Giv'at Ze'ev; 400 housing units in Qiryat Sefer; and 50 as opposed to 10 in the Jordan Rift Valley. To this one can add 216 housing units on Giv'at Hazayit, a site which made headlines during the Efrata affair. As for financial allocations, the report indicates a decline: 95 million shekels will be invested in the territories during 1995 as opposed to 140 million shekels in 1994. Fifty-four million shekels will be invested in the development of new construction, and most of this money will return to the government. Approximately 12 million shekels will be allocated in supplemental development aid to settlements in the heart of the territories whose construction began in 1989. Another 4 million shekels will be invested in public buildings, synagogues, kindergartens, and so forth.

Three new roads are also planned: the Ramallah and Tulkarm bypass roads and the road from Bet Hagay to Qiryat Arba'. The Construction and Housing Ministry described the report as moderate and said it reflected the national consensus and the Labor Party's platform. However, senior political sources expressed the assessment that the report's publication would cause an uproar in the government, mainly of course among the Meretz ministers.

Reacting to the report this evening, Environment Minister Yosi Sarid said that the expansion of settlements and the peace process were mutually exclusive. Sarid said that at its next session, the cabinet would have to examine how such things could have happened and how to guarantee a total halt of settlements.

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip reacted to the Construction and Housing Ministry report by welcoming the figures. The council asserted that this was only the beginning, and they expected things to continue in a similar way.

Minister: Settlement Plans Limited to Jerusalem Area

TA1601201195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In reaction to the reports on construction in the territories, Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said that there is no plan to build in the territories except in the greater Jerusalem area.

Our correspondent Gay Qotev has learned that the report that the construction and housing minister plans to submit to the cabinet on Sunday [22 January] refers to the construction of thousands of housing units in Ma'ale Adumim, the Har Homa area, and other locations in Greater Jerusalem. The report also mentions the construction of another 50 housing units in the Jordan Valley settlements.

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West Bank Settlement Begins Populating New Neighborhood

TA1701054895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Samarian settlement of Qedumim has in the past few days begun populating a new neighborhood about 2.5 km north of the community. The government ordered a halt about two years ago to work on infrastructure for the new neighborhood, but in the coming days the houses there will be hooked up to the settlement's electrical grid and access roads will be paved. The head of the Qedumim local council, Yosi Kapah, said that after those homes are occupied, Qedumim will start building another neighborhood between the settlement proper and the new northern neighborhood. Kapah says he has all the necessary permits for the development plans.

Senior political circles are quoted by Qol Yisra'el reporter Shlomo Raz as saying that a security report that they have been handed makes it clear that some of the bypass roads currently being prepared are redundant from the security point of view. The report says also that the fences being built around settlements are being erected in such a way that the settlement perimeter can be extended, even if there is no security reason for this. In response to the report, defense sources say none of the bypass roads are being built to extend settlements.

YESHA' Survey: Over 141,000 Settlers in Territories

TA1401132995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The number of Jews living in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is just over 141,000 according to a new survey carried out by the YESHA' [Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip] Council. Since the Oslo agreement, the Jewish population has increased by about five percent.

The council says the report is based on the number of property-rate payers in every settlement. The report has not been published so far because the residents are afraid that it may annoy the government ministers and lead to steps to contain settlements.

About 35,000 Jews live in the greater Jerusalem area beyond the Green Line, including Ma'ale Adumim, Giv'at Ze'ev, and the 'Etzyon Bloc. In the Jordan Valley there are about 7,000 Jews, the rest of Judaea and Samaria 90,000, and in the Gaza District more than 6,000.

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Israeli Ambassador To Be Named 'Within a Week'

JN1401090195 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Jan 95 p 29

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Well-informed sources have told AL-RA'Y that during His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the issue of appointing an Israeli ambassador to Jordan was discussed.

The sources added that the Israeli side maintained that the name of the Israeli ambassador will be announced within a week.

These sources said that the presence of Efrayim Halevi, former deputy director of the Israeli intelligence service and Rabin's nominee for ambassador, at the al-Hashimiyah Palace meetings last Thursday indicates the possibility of him winning this position even though the name of the Israeli nominee was not officially discussed.

Further on King Husayn-Rabin Meeting in Amman

JN1401084995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Jan 95 pp 1, 7

[Article by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's four-hour visit to Jordan late Thursday [12 January] was a gesture of the goodwill that exists between the Kingdom and Israel and a reaffirmation of the determination of the two countries to implement their Oct. 16 peace treaty in all its aspects, Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti said Friday.

Among the most tangible results of Mr. Rabin's talks with His Majesty King Husayn were an agreement to accelerate the pace of implementing the peace treaty and early prospects for Jordanian exports to Israel.

This would include bringing forward the schedule of Israeli withdrawal to international borders as agreed in the peace treaty and Israeli permission for imports from Jordan even before the two countries formalise a trade agreement in May.

Also covered during the discussions were plans to build water projects that would ensure Jordan's share of water from northern sources. The projects—two dams/reservoirs and a water purification plant among other things—are part of the peace treaty that allocates an additional 215 million cubic metres of water to Jordan.

No progress was immediately reported on the expected nomination of Israel of an ambassador to Jordan, and it was believed that Mr. Rabin and his Foreign Minister Shimon Peres continued to disagree over the nominee. However, the dispute is expected to be resolved by next week and the nomination made immediately thereafter.

Shortly after his arrival by helicopter accompanied by several high-ranking military officials and deputy ministers, Mr. Rabin held a one-and-a-half hour closed meeting with the King. The meeting was followed by a broader round of talks including Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Mr. al- Kabariti and Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, who is expected to be Jordan's ambassador to Israel.

Mr. al-Kabariti, who attended the expanded talks, said Mr. Rabin's visit was a "gesture reflecting the goodwill" between the two countries. Mr. Rabin also wanted to establish contact with his new counterpart, al-Sharif Zayd, who formed his government last week, and to know firsthand about the views of the new government on implementation of the peace treaty.

"We assured them that there was no change in our approach and we are as determined as Israel to implement the peace treaty," Mr. al- Kabariti told the JORDAN TIMES. It also appeared that Mr. Rabin initiated the discussions on how to accelerate the implementation of the treaty as another sign of Israel's good faith intentions with Jordan .

Both the King and Mr. Rabin, in comments to reporters after their talks at the al-Hashimiyah Palace, underlined the commitment of the two countries to implement the peace treaty "in letter and spirit."

The implementation of the peace treaty is going "as scheduled," the King said, adding that he and Mr. Rabin reviewed all issues related to the treaty and aspects of the newly emerging Jordanian- Israeli relationship.

"We are determined, both of us, to see that this treaty is implemented in terms of word and spirit and it is a foundation for relations between our peoples in the times ahead," the King said.

"... We are determined, both we will keep meeting every while and then as we had done in the past to ensure that progress continues and to ensure that we fulfill our commitment to our peoples, a commitment we take extremely seriously and are determined to fulfill." [sentence as published]

Noting that the peace treaty calls for Israeli withdrawal from Jordanian territories by Feb. 10, Mr. Rabin said he and the King agreed to accelerate the process and demarcate the international borders between the two countries ahead of schedule.

"However, there are also other bilateral issues," said the Israeli prime minister. These included, he said, "solutions to Jordan's water problem...and security arrangements, bearing in mind that we are pulling back to international borders."

Israel will also allow imports from Jordan soon, he added, without specifying a time frame.

Mr. Rabin said it was agreed that negotiators would reach an agreement to try to accelerate the timetable for applying the treaty by Jan. 25.

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"We have to make sure that whatever we have agreed on and we signed on will be implemented in accordance to the letter and the spirit of the peace treaty," Mr. Rabin said. "Therefore His Majesty the King and I have agreed to let the people concerned daily with the problem by the 25th of this month to reach agreement, to try to accelerate the timetable of tourism, of problem of trade and commerce by which Jordan will be able to export commodities and products to Israel and other issues that will make the peace treaty the king of a peace treaty that the man in the street will feel..." [sentence as published]

Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur was quoted as saying that "the Jordanian people would like to see the concrete results of peace and Rabin took decisions in this direction."

"It is unfortunately undeniable that there is hostility towards Israel among the Jordanian people," Mr. Gur was quoted as saying by the AFP.

A press conference expected to be held after the King's talks with Mr. Rabin did not materialise. There was no explanation why it was called off.

However, the King briefly answered reporters' questions as Mr. Rabin and the delegation accompanying him were flying out.

The outcome of the talks, he said, was that "we are determined to implement what we have agreed in the peace treaty as rapidly as possible."

When the Washington Declaration was signed on June 25, leading to an accelerated pace in negotiations that led to the Oct. 26 treaty, "We both agreed to be the shepherds of the process," said the King.

The King emphasised that Thursday's meeting was very important since it underlined the approach that "beyond what the world would hopefully contribute, we would like to do whatever we can between us directly."

The King brushed aside a suggestion that Jordanians were disappointed with what they saw as the slow pace of dividends reaching them.

"I don't think that is a fact at all," said the King. "The peace treaty does not mean overnight changes. I have told my people it would take time and efforts."

In the meantime, the King noted, there have been major changes in the Jordanian-Israeli equation. "There is a human face to the other side...we have an international border...(and) the problem of water has been resolved," he said.

It was Mr. Rabin's fourth visit to Jordan and first after the peace treaty was signed. He was accompanied by Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, Military Intelligence Chief Uri Saguy, Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin and deputy head of Mosad Efrayim Halevi, whose name has been mentioned as a possible nominee as Israel's ambassador to Jordan.

Foreign Minister on Jerusalem, 'Arafat's '25 Jan' Visit

JN1501075695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan will participate in the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee, which will begin in the Moroccan city of Ifrane tomorrow.

Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti will leave Amman for Morocco today leading an official delegation to participate in these meetings.

In a press statement last night, the foreign minister emphasized that the subject of Jerusalem should not be a subject of disagreement and division among Arab and Islamic states because this would give Israel the chance to interfere with the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem, and that, God forbid, something similar to what happened in the Ibrahimi Mosque could occur.

He said Jordan does not want history to record that the Hashemites have abandoned the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem, leaving them to a non-Arab or non-Islamic party. He emphasized that the subject of Jordanian custodianship of the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem is not included in the agenda of the committee meetings, but this subject may be presented as a topic that comes up for discussion.

He said the government held contacts with all parties concerned with Jerusalem. He added that the Palestinian brothers were contacted during his visit to Cairo, and it was agreed that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will visit Jordan on 25 January. This date could change. He said the visit should be preceded by joint technical ministerial Jordanian-Palestinian committees meetings on 23-24 January to prepare for the visit.

Crown Prince Hasan on Israeli Ties, Regional Issues

MM1701142495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report on interview with Crown Prince Hasan by Mahir 'Uthman in London "yesterday"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian crown prince has warned that the West's continued dealing with Iraq and Iran on the basis of the "dual containment" policy, and its discontent with Iraq's implementation of the UN resolutions adopted during the Gulf crisis and war, represent a preparation for new hostility and threaten to spark off extremism in the coming months and years.

The Jordanian crown prince—during a visit to AL-HAYAH's offices in London yesterday—spoke about the background of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and Jordanian King Husayn's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Amman the day before yesterday.

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Prince Hasan's interview also dealt with the issues of Jerusalem and relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, and the PLO.

Asked about the background to Jordan's signing a peace treaty with Israel, Prince Hasan said: "The Jordanian agenda was clear and ready for implementation. But we waited under the (Jordanian-Palestinian) umbrella. When this terminated (and the Jordanian and Palestinian tracks separated from one another) and the Oslo accord came into being, we found that the best way to bolster the Palestinian decision was to initial—one day after the Palestinian-Israeli accord was signed—the Jordanian agenda (agenda of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations)."

He stressed that Jordan is currently seeking to achieve (a threshold of matters for implementation) concerning the Jordanian-Israeli treaty. He said that the urgent issue is the sovereignty issue, and that the border demarcation is now imminent, and military forces will be redistributed in February.

Regarding Arab criticisms of the "leasing" of part of Jordanian territory to Israelis, the Jordanian crown prince said: "That was erroneously called leasing. We are not talking about leasing, but, rather, about allowing the Israeli farmer to practice agriculture on farms. No Israelis live on Jordanian territory. They (the farmers) live in Israel and come for the sake of agriculture."

On the water issue and the arrangements for its distribution, the Jordanian crown prince said, "they [the arrangements] were wrongly thought to be unfair." He explained that Israel started with the pumping of 20 million cubic meters of water into Lake Tiberias, allocated to Jordan between 15 May and October, in addition to 50 million cubic meters as a quota for Jordan before next summer.

He considered Israel's approval of these quantities for Jordan "a Jordanian achievement." He pointed to an agreement to build two dams on the meeting point of the rivers al-Yarmuk and Jordan, in addition to purification and desalination projects—"which will make the water network complete in terms of storage, transportation, and desalination."

He said that the peace treaty is an official framework, "but its implementation and the implementation of its appendixes is the serious issue confirming the two states' desire to (bring about) a change on the ground in terms of the water, border, and so on. This will take most of this year."

Told that there is an Arab complaint about Jordan's rush to sign the peace treaty with Israel, the Jordanian crown prince pointed to the Oslo accord and his earlier review of the background to the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, saying: "We all believe in the language of a comprehensive solution and this concept as a practical supplement to the idea of stability, instead of war, in the Middle East." He went on to say: "There had never been any mathematical or arithmetical view that the Syrian negotiation process and the Jordanian negotiation process would mature at the same time. It is almost impossible, because the problems are complicated and thorny. It is difficult to link an issue to another track because of the lack of coordination in the Madrid framework. The coordination was in the form of exchanging information (instead of drawing up a joint strategy), otherwise a joint Arab delegation would have been formed."

Prince Hasan expressed hope that "there will be a minimum of Arab consultation so as to become a characteristic of joint Arab action in the future, because estrangement does not help."

On Jordan's and Israel's announcement of their intention to speed up the implementation of their treaty—and this suggests that "there is sluggishness"—he said: "There is a feeling that there are objective facts in Israel as regards slowness or speed in implementation. They are matters linked to the internal political situation in Israel. This transitional phase, represented in the Palestinian and Israeli elections, and even U.S. mid-term Congressional elections, was expected in 1994, and maybe on that basis 1994 was chosen to go ahead with the Jordanian accord with the Israelis."

Asked about Egyptian-Jordanian relations in the light of the visit to Egypt the day before yesterday by the new Jordanian foreign minister, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, and whether Egypt is critical of Jordan, he said that Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation is continuing at the regional and international levels. And "some newspapers' reports of competition are untrue. Because in view of Jordan's size, the size of its population, and the size of its economy, I do not believe the talk about competition is accurate." He pointed to the two countries' identical views on new political concepts like Middle Eastern cooperation and coordination over socialist and economic matters.

Asked whether channels are open between Jordan and Syria, Prince Hasan said: "It is not impossible to talk. The (Jordanian) trade minister visited Damascus two weeks ago. Daily and procedural dealings are continuing. As for the Syrian-U.S. dialogue or the Syrian-Israeli dialogue, we are not acquainted with them, nor have we asked to be acquainted with them. But there is a foundation of trust between the two countries' leaderships, and we hope there will be a comprehensive framework for a political solution."

Asked about the current status of relations between Jordan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Prince Hasan said: "In the blessed month of Ramadan last year [March/April] I made a statement thanking King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz for their donations for Jerusalem, in the name of His Majesty King Husayn. With regard to the Jerusalem issue, we believe that competition for the sake of good is

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legitimate and desirable. And we hope Palestinian citizens will enjoy further support. There is no disagreement over this."

He added: "I had the opportunity to meet with Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan in New York. But the required meeting at leadership level has not been achieved."

He attached special importance to Jordanian-Saudi and Jordanian-Gulf integration, saying: "It is still Jordan's conviction that we represent a barrier in the face of the Israeli economy's domination of the Arab economy in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf and the continued threat that economic differences could create further imbalances. This prompts us in Jordan to believe that Jordanian-Gulf and Jordanian-Saudi integration is one of the most important factors for the Arab economy's independence in the next stages. But weakness—God forbid—on Jordan's part would mean that this barrier and this belt would be crossed by Israel with its economic weight, resulting in Jordan's losing its ability to play a pivotal role in the interests of Arab stability in the coming years.

"The lack of consultation among us, and judging us and our relations on the basis of other world parties' views, deepens the gap and denies us the opportunity to build mutual trust, which is needed at this stage of our common history as Arabs."

Prince Hasan cited the Jerusalem Committee's imminent meeting in Ifrane, Morocco. He said: "I would like to point out again that Jerusalem consists of three districts: the one within the walls, the one outside them, and the one which Israel regards as greater Jerusalem and wants to extend from Bethlehem to Ramallah."

He said: "The Christian world is preparing for celebrations in the year 2000 in the context of the talk about the future of Christian and Jewish rights. The archbishop of Canterbury visited Jerusalem and spoke about crystallizing relations among the three religions. And world Judaism is preparing for a celebration in 1996 on the occasion of Jerusalem's 3000th anniversary. As for the Islamic world, it is preparing nothing for Muslims' rights within Jerusalem's walls, which includes the holy sites, schools, and monasteries, and awqaf [religious endowments]. It is regrettable to talk about Jerusalem politically only. Because any vacuum could leave the Israeli Religious Affairs Ministry in charge of matters."

He added: "When we talk politically, we support the Palestinians in the framework of the second and third districts of Jerusalem."

Talks on the Jerusalem issue have been deferred under the Oslo accord, so why did Jordan raise it early? He said: "There is no disagreement between us and the PLO over the fact that Jerusalem is part of the territories occupied in 1967 and that Jerusalem is not just an issue of worship and religious representation, but the cause of a people. We are not talking about Palestinizing, Jordanizing, Saudi-izing, or Moroccanizing Jerusalem. Because the issue is not to do with publicity. It is to do with presenting the Islamic concept. There are equal rights as regards worship in Jerusalem."

Does Jordan support the idea of having Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state? Prince Hasan said: "Naturally. We supported and continue to support that and all Palestinian rights without any reservation or limit."

On the possibility of Israel's seeking to confuse the Palestinian self-rule authority and to accuse it of being unable to govern, in order to push toward Jordan's assuming responsibility for the occupied West Bank, the Jordanian crown prince said: "I am certain the opposite is true. We see that the focus now is on the Jordanian identity, especially after the recent census and the appeal to all citizens to prove that the severing of the links exists west of the river. As for east of the river, we, of course, talk about one people and adhere to national unity.

"Our worst fear with regard to the occupied territories is not the conflict among national, nationalist, and religious tendencies, but the generation that has grown up under the Israeli occupation for over 25 years, separated from their villages and cities as a result of the barriers of settlement and settlements, and also because of the isolation and fragmentation between Jerusalem and the West Bank and between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This fragmentation could lead to a movement toward Jordan by virtue of the ties of kinship. But it could also lead to Palestinian-Israeli rapprochement. There is the precedent of the 1948 Arabs."

Answering a question about the status of Jordanian-Iraqi relations, Prince Hasan warned about the West's dealing with Iraq and Iran on the basis of the dual containment policy and its discontent with Iraq's implementation of the Security Council resolutions adopted since the recent Gulf crisis.

He said: "We used to talk about the mutual Jordanian-Iraqi rear ['umq], which was at one point a defense and military rear. With regard to the everyday life aspect of the rear, a blow was dealt to the Jordanian and Iraqi peoples' interests. It was a mortal blow for both peoples.

"We are seeing two links in this tragedy. I said in an article in the (U.S.) magazine NEWSWEEK in 1990 that the Jordanian economy should not commit suicide as a result of the sanctions (imposed on Iraq). After the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, some U.S. commentators wrote that Jordan did not deserve to receive aid."

On Turkish President Suleyman Demirel's visit to Jordan, the Jordanian crown prince said: "He spoke about the need to rehabilitate Iraq...he spoke within a civilized framework, and there was harmony between the Jordanian and Turkish positions."

Then he said, "UN resolutions are the basis of the international position on Iraq. Assuming that Iraq will

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implement all that is required of it in the next few months, will the international community have anything else to demand? Democracy, pluralism, and free trade-...the problem is the dual containment policy—the containment which has not affected Iranian influence in the region and has nothing to do with the Iraq issue in the United Nations, and which could lead to the spread of extremism in the region. This extremism is likely to explode in the coming months or years." He added that the position on Iraq and Iran looks like a preparation for new hostility in the region.

On Islamic "fundamentalism" and Jordan's position on it, Prince Hasan said: "I have every respect for fundamentalism in terms of its historic concept. But if what is intended is extremism in its various forms, I stress that the return to Islam for reasons related to political deprivation or denial of civil and social rights (is understandable). When we say that the income of 130 million Arabs will be less than the income of some 7 million Israelis in 10 years, the wager is on further extremism."

Pointing to Jordan's accommodation of the Islamic tendency within the constitutional and parliamentary framework and the national charter framework, he said: "We have always sought to find solutions (to the problem of extremism). If there was consultation, we would not have been tormented by Israel's occupying positions in its contacts with Arab and Islamic states. If there was Arab cohesion, the picture would not have been as it stands with regard to the expansion of Israeli influence." He also said: "We have to find political solutions through Islamic dialogue. We have encouraged—through well-studied steps, albeit slow—the standardization of fatwas in Islam so as to reflect Islamic solidarity."

In his interview with AL-HAYAH Prince Hasan broached the future of regional economic cooperation, pointing to the economic summit scheduled to be held in the Jordanian capital Amman next October regarding the idea of establishing a bank for development in the Middle East and North Africa. He said that the idea of this bank did not come from a vacuum, but is a reflection of a broad regional concept. He added that the positions of Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt, and Israel on the idea are unified.

He said that during his talks in the White House he supported the idea that the bank should assume an advisory capacity. "Because extending the World Bank's charter to the region will not necessarily serve it if loan terms are going to remain the same."

Asked about some Arab parties' reservations about the bank idea, he said: "Maybe the reason is the current financial straits and the fear of contributing to capital."

I proposed to the Jordanian crown prince the idea of holding an Arab-Kurdish meeting within the framework of an Arab seminar in Jordan, and he said: "Fine, provided we are not accused of encouraging sectarianism. We believe in the diversity that enriches. But the problem is that some Western leaders espouse various minorities at different times, as though they are choosing the flavor of the day: one time the Kurds and other times the Shiites of the south [Iraq], or this or that group in Somalia, not because they like them, but to achieve certain objectives in the region."

Crown Prince Returns From UK Visit 15 Jan

JN1501191995 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn led those who received His Highness Crown Prince Hasan upon his return to Amman this evening after a visit to Britain that lasted several days. [passage omitted]

House Committee Deplores Gingrich's Jerusalem Remarks

JN1601154695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in English 1200 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We start the news with the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies [House of Representatives] deploring a recent statement on Jerusalem by Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Newt Gingrich.

The committee was referring to an interview with Israel's Hebrew newspaper HA'ARETZ in which the new Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives said Washington should transfer its embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem.

Mr. Gingrich was also quoted as saying Israel has a legitimate right to choose its capital and, as allies, the United States should accept that.

The committee said that Mr. Gingrich's untimely remarks would escalate tension among all parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

It added that it was astonished that the comments came from a senior official of the Republican Party, in power at the time of the Madrid peace conference, which asked the parties to delay discussing the status of Jerusalem until the final stage of negotiations.

The parliamentary panel said the House believes such statements will be harmful to feelings of Arab and Islamic peoples alike.

Paper Criticizes Gingrich Statements

JN1701153195 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Jan 95 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "Hostile Statements"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The statement of the House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee about the remarks by Newt Gingrich, the Republican Speaker of

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the U.S. House of Representatives, carried clear signals and sounded the alarm against the danger that is still threatening the holy city—which is the symbol of Arab unity and the dear place in Muslims' hearts, regardless of their origins and orientations.

These statements defy the feelings of Muslims everywhere, especially at this time when the train of peace has just started to move and peoples have started to look for the fruits of this long-awaited peace.

The committee's statement said the remarks by the Republican official were inappropriate because they disregarded UN resolutions that consider Jerusalem occupied Arab land that should be treated like the rest of the occupied Arab lands, whose features should not be changed in a manner that prolongs the Israeli occupation. Evidence for this is provided by Security Council Resolution 487 rejecting any recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and ensuing requests to diplomatic missions to move their premises to the holy city. The resolution was issued in accordance with the principle of the inadmissibility of allowing the aggressor to reap the fruits of his aggression.

As for timing, Gingrich's statements come at a time when the region is heading toward an era of peace—a peace that devoted one of its agendas to the issue of Jerusalem and which explicitly and frankly specifies the period in which discussions and deliberations over the holy city will start.

Gingrich's statements are particularly serious because they were made by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who represents the Republican Party—the majority party which sponsored the beginning of talks between Arabs and Israel and which witnessed the acknowledgment of the Madrid conference principles and the beginning of the peace process in the region. Therefore, it is quite natural for this statement to be viewed as replanting the seeds of antagonism and hostility in the region, which has started to head toward the peace process in the hope of turning the page on the past.

It is probably no coincidence that these statements, with all their spirit of hostility and attempts to torpedo the peace process, coincided with the beginning of the Jerusalem Committee meetings. This prompts us to reiterate the need to discard differences and concentrate on facing this looming danger before the occurrence of something with bad consequences, like the passing of a bill by the U.S. House of Representatives that will only complicate things further.

We hope that the Jerusalem Committee will take the initiative to quickly move to stop this danger before it spreads by forming a committee to address American and world public opinion and point out the dangers these statements carry for the peace process, and the fact that they stir hatred and spite in the Islamic world—hatred that will result in tragic consequences. Above all, efforts must be exerted in order to avert altering the features of Jerusalem, which is the symbol of peace and love and the dear place in the hearts of Muslims.

Foreign Ministry Holds Contacts on Jerusalem Issue

JN1601152595 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Jan 95 pp 1, 13

[Report by 'Umar Kallab]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian diplomacy has become more active on the eve of the 15th Jerusalem Committee ordinary session to begin in Casablanca today. Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority, is expected to participate in this session, which will discuss several issues listed on the agenda.

The Foreign Ministry has held many contacts and meetings with Arab and Islamic parties to consolidate Jordan's stand at this session on the question of the religious custodianship over the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem, following reports that some Arab capitals intend to give this custodianship to an Arab and Islamic committee in order to marginalize Jordan's role.

During his Cairo visit, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al- Kabariti discussed the status of Jerusalem and the holy shrines with President Husni Mubarak and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. The foreign minister received an Egyptian promise to approximate viewpoints between Jordan and the self-rule authority and to list the issue on the agenda of the Egyptian-Jordanian summit.

Al-Kabariti also met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, who arrived in Amman on his way to Casablanca to attend the Jerusalem Committee session to secure Iraq's support for the Jordanian stand. Al-Kabariti explained the Jordanian stand by saying: We in Jordan do not confuse issues. Sovereignty over Jerusalem is a Palestinian concern because it is an indivisible part of the territories occupied in 1967. As for the question of custodianship over the shrines, this issue has been settled, given that it remains a trust with Jordan until the Palestinian Authority assumes its sovereignty over Jerusalem.

To garner Arab and Islamic support for the Jordanian stand, Foreign Ministry sources said Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nayif al-Hadid met with the ambassadors of the Arab and Islamic countries which are members in the committee on 14 January to emphasize to them that Jordan insists on continuing its role concerning the holy places and that Jordan objects to the idea of transferring religious custodianship to an Islamic committee.

Al-Kabariti told REUTERS that Jordan does not agree that history records that it gave up custodianship over the holy places to an unidentified party or to the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs. He added: If the issue deals with Palestinian custodianship, Jordan will not, in

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any way whatsoever, stand in the way of the Palestinian people's assuming custodianship over the holy places and that Jordan will support them.

Al-Kabariti said the question of custodianship over the holy places in Jerusalem is not listed on the agenda but it could be raised in connection with other items on the agenda.

Minister: Mubarak To Visit 1 Feb, Jerusalem Stand Agreed

JN1401092795 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Jan 95 pp 1, 7

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Ghadir Tahir]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will meet in Amman on Feb. 1, in the first visit of the Egyptian leader to Jordan after the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, said Friday [13 January].

Mr. Kabariti, who paid a brief visit to Cairo on Thursday [12 January] and held separate discussions with President Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, described his talks as "extremely successful" and said they succeeded in removing obstacles in the restoration of normal relations between Jordan and Egypt.

He said the Cairo talks produced agreement on a joint position vis-a-vis the question of Jerusalem and Jordan's role in maintaining the holy shrines in the occupied city.

The joint position calls for "restoration of Arab-Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem and halting all Israeli measures aimed at Judaising the Holy city," the minister told the JORDAN TIMES.

Mr. al-Kabariti said Jordan and Egypt agreed that the conflict over Jerusalem and its holy sites must be resolved through Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in the final status talks scheduled for 1996.

Mr. al-Kabariti's talks in Cairo came four days ahead of a meeting of the 16-member Jerusalem Committee of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to be held in the Moroccan mountain resort of Ifran at the level of foreign ministers of the member countries of the panel, which is chaired by King Hassan II of Morocco.

Mr. al-Kabariti said the Jordanian-Egyptian agreement on the Holy city means that there could be no change on the current status of Jerusalem and its holy places until the final status negotiations begin next year.

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nayif al-Haddid on Thursday summoned the ambassadors of Arab and Islamic states on the committee to inform them that Jordan would continue its custodianship of the holy shrines in Jerusalem until the Palestinians are in a position to take over control of East Jerusalem as part of a final settlement.

Mr. al-Kabariti, who is gathering support for Jordan's position ahead of the OIC meeting, is expected to meet with his Iraqi counterpart Muhammad Sayid al-Sahhaf today in Amman to discuss a joint position ahead of the Morocco conference. The Iraqi foreign minister will be stopping over in Amman on his way to the meeting.

It is believed that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), backed by Saudi Arabia and Morocco, wants the Jerusalem Committee to name a body to control the holy sites in Jerusalem, Jordanian officials said.

"Mr. al-Haddid told (the envoys) that Jordan was against any widening of the current religious custody over sites in Jerusalem and that it will continue its role until the Palestinian Authority can practise its role there," said a Jordanian official quoted by Reuters.

Arab tension over Jerusalem was kindled when Jordan's role in the Holy City was recognised in the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty signed Oct. 26.

The Jerusalem Committee met during the OIC summit in Casablanca, Morocco, in December, when Egypt was admitted as a new member.

The debate over Jerusalem caused friction between the PLO and Jordan during the summit.

Jordan wanted the final resolution to take note of its role as guardian of the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem. The PLO, supported by some of the influential Arab countries, rejected the Jordanian language and included a reference to Saudi Arabia.

The summit adopted a resolution which stressed that Jerusalem was an integral part of Palestinian territories occupied by Israel in 1967 and declared it capital of a future Palestinian state.

Jordan said it had no problems with the resolution but had objections to specific reference to Saudi Arabia without any reference to Jordan's role.

During Thursday's talks in Cairo, Jordan and Egypt agreed to revitalise the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee chaired by the premiers of the two countries.

The two sides also resolved problems related to the acceptance of Jordanian students at Egyptian universities, Mr. al-Kabariti said.

The minister said that his government's policy was focused on the need to normalise Arab relations as "a strategic and not as a temporary, transitional option."

Following the talks in Cairo, Mr. Musa was quoted as saying that "Jordanian-Egyptian interests in the region are identical."

King Telephones Egyptian, Yemeni Presidents 14 Jan

JN1401125595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak have held a telephone conversation. The two sides discussed bilateral

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relations and the anticipated meeting between his majesty and President Mubarak. They stressed the need to overcome differences between Arab brothers and to unite their stand on the momentous issues facing the nation.

His Majesty King Husayn also held a telephone conversation with his brother Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. They discussed the distinguished relations between the two sisterly countries and stressed the need to settle differences between Arab brothers. The two sides also discussed means to unify the nation's stand toward the challenges it is facing at this critical stage that calls for overcoming all differences and consolidating efforts to safeguard the nation's interests and the future of its generations.

Article on Firing of SAWT AL-SHA'B's Chief Editor

JN1601131895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Jan 95 pp 12, 7

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The Jordan Press Association (JPA) is looking into the reasons behind the firing of the chief editor of SAWT AL-SHA'B Arabic daily, 'Abd-al-Salam al-Tarawinah, but the company's chairman of the board, 'Abd-al-Hayy al-Majali, says that any effort to reinstate the editor would be futile.

JPA President Sulayman al-Qudah declined comment on the incident beyond saying that the association had received a complaint from Mr. al-Tarawinah and would follow up the issue with the concerned authorities.

Informed sources also said that the government, which owns 80 per cent of the paper, is also looking into the incident.

But Mr. al-Majali said the decision to dismiss Mr. al-Tarawinah, which was taken last week, was final and it had the approval of all members of the board of the financially-troubled newspaper. Mr. al-Tarawinah told the JORDAN TIMES that his dismissal from the paper was prompted by his rejection of managerial intervention in the editorial policy of the paper, adding that Mr. al-Majali unilaterally took the decision to fire him without the consent of the board.

He said troubles between him and Mr. al-Majali started when the chairman began attempting to have articles that "unfairly and unprofessionally criticize Jordanian political figures" published in the paper.

Mr. al-Tarawinah, who took over the editorship of the paper in July last year, said he refused to published such articles which Mr. al-Majali wanted to have printed under false names.

The incident that brought the confrontation of the decision to fire Mr. al-Tarawinah was the editor's refusal to publish an editorial stating that former Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali was to form the new government despite strong reports that al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir was to head the new cabinet, Mr. al-Tarawinah said.

He said the chairman of the board, who is also general manager of the paper, wanted other articles extremely critical of Jordanian personalities to be published in the paper under the signature of the "editor," even though they were written by other people, including an editorial consultant who was hired by Mr. al-Majali against the will of Mr. al-Tarawinah.

Mr. al-Majali, a brother of former Prime Minister al-Majali, also tried to use the power of people outside the paper to influence the policy of the paper," said Mr. al-Tarawinah.

Mr. al-Tarawinah showed this reporter an article critical of parliamentarian and signed by a "citizen from al-Karak" as an example of the articles which, he said, 'Abd-al-Hayy al-Majali wanted to run in the paper without the names of their writers.

"I couldn't have allowed such articles to be published, especially that they are not signed by the people who wrote them," said Mr. al-Tarawinah.

Mr. al-Majali rejected these charges, saying the decision to fire the editor was prompted by his failure to cooperate with the management and the decline in the performance of the publication.

He said he had asked Mr. al-Tarawinah in July to reorganise the cadres of the newspaper, which is 80 per cent owned by the government, but Mr. al-Tarawinah ignored the request as well as a similar one made in December.

Mr. al-Majali said the refusal of the editor to cooperate with the management resulted in a decline in the performance of the debt- plagued paper.

That, he said, prompted the board to take the decision to fire Mr. al-Tarawinah.

But Mr. al-Majali said he asked the board of directors to entrust him with solving the conflict and he offered Mr. al-Tarawinah the chance to resign in order to "save face."

He added that Mr. Tarawinah refused to take a leave of absence he had offered him. Accordingly, Mr. al-Majali said he took the decision to fire Mr. al-Tarawinah with the backing of all 11 members of the board.

Mr. al-Majali rejected charges he was interfering in the editorial policy of the paper. But Mr. al-Tarawinah referred to specific incidents when he refused to run articles under the signature of "the editor" at the request of al-Majali, such as an article criticizing former Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat. The article was finally printed under the by-line of "the editorial consultant."

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whose growing influence at the paper, according to one journalists, "is becoming alarming."

Mr. al-Tarawinah admitted that he refused to draft a new organisational structure for the newspaper but said his decision was based on his refusal to terminate the services of journalists, which he said was the goal of the request for reorganisation.

He said he refused the leave of absence Mr. al-Majali offered him because that would have allowed the chairman and the editorial consultant to run the articles they wanted in the days before the announcements of the new cabinet while he was still the editor of the paper.

"I did not mind praising the previous government. But I did mind unfair criticism of Jordanian political personalities, He said.

Mr. al-Tarawinah said the board of directors entrusted Mr. al- Majali with solving the problem through reconciliation and not by firing him, adding that some members of the board oppose his dismissal.

"Members of the board did not even meet with me to listen to my point of view. For that I blame them," said Mr. al-Tarawinah, who in the past worked as chief editor of AL-DUSTUR Arabic daily, and most recently as adviser at the Ministry of Information.

A member of the board, Qutaybah Abu-Qurah, declined comment on the issue and others were not available for comment Sunday [16 January].

One journalists at the newspaper who requested anonymity said the journalists were upset about the way in which Mr. al-Tarawinah was fired. "Editors should not be treated that way," he said.

But he said Mr. al-Tarawinah should have cooperated in drawing up a new organisational structure which he could have presented in a way that would have improved the working conditions of the journalists without succumbing to demands for terminating the services of any member of the staff.

"The would have put the ball in the management's court," he said. The journalists conceded that the performance of the paper was declining but attributed that to the "frustrating" conditions in which journalists work.

"We informed the chairman in a meeting that we were not going to work properly in the conditions that prevail at the paper. You cannot pay a journalist JD [Jordanian dinar] 150 a month and expect him to work with his full potential," he said.

The journalists spoke of a general frustration among the staff for the failure of the management to redress their situation, blaming that more than any other reason, for the apparent decline in the performance of the newspaper.

But Mr. al-Majali said the paper would get a new lease of life now that it has obtained permission from the Ministry of Trade and Industry to seek JD 5 million of new investment in the paper.

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Al-Hirawi Holds Meeting With U.S. Official

NC1401074795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. official Peter Martinez has resumed his contacts with Lebanese officials. He met with the president and the foreign minister. The issue of the Lebanese-U.S. Security Committee dominated the talks.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said he had received from Peter Martinez—director of the Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan Desk at the U.S. State Department—the U.S. draft agenda for the Security Committee. Buwayz noted that the U.S. agenda is confined to preserving the security of U.S. interests in Lebanon and that it will not deal with the peace talks. He added that the U.S. proposals are close to Lebanon's view of the agenda.

Martinez, who visited the B'abda Palace and met with President al-Hirawi, described his talks in Lebanon as good. He said his talks with the president dealt with the security negotiations. He added that the Security Committee's proposed agenda, which he handed to Minister Buwayz, is close to the Lebanese view. He said he hoped that progress would be made soon.

Buwayz Clarifies Government's Stance on Jerusalem

NC1401074995 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz is scheduled to leave for Rabat today heading Lebanon's delegation to the Jerusalem Committee's two-day meeting, scheduled to open on Monday [16 January]. [passage omitted]

Minister Buwayz has exchanged views on the Arab situation and the Jerusalem Committee with his Egyptian counterpart, 'Amr Musa, on the telephone.

Buwayz clarified at a news conference that there is complete agreement with Syria on the Jerusalem Committee. He said that Lebanon insists on keeping this committee to supervise the Jerusalem problem. He added that Lebanon also insists on maintaining Jerusalem's Arab character and on the commitment not to threaten the city and change its characteristics, which are not exclusive to one nation or state but encompass all humankind. He expressed his belief that Egypt's stance on the Jerusalem Committee does not differ from that of Lebanon.

Rabin Visits Marj 'Uyun, Meets With SLA's Lahd

NC1201155095 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At midday today, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin visited Marj 'Uyun where he met with South Lebanese Army [SLA] Commander Gen. Antoine Lahd. Rabin said the visit aims to strengthen the mutual confidence between Israel and its army on one hand and the border area and the SLA on the other. He said there is a common goal between us, namely to achieve the desired peace. Rabin added: During this visit, I heard about the area's problems, whether those encountered by the Israeli side or by the inhabitants. He expressed his confidence that cooperation between Israel and the border area will continue until the desired solution is achieved, namely the SLA soldiers' assimilation into the Lebanese Army and the border area inhabitants' enjoyment of their full freedom as Lebanese citizens living a dignified life without fear or terrorism.

At a news conference, Rabin said: I have explained several times that Lebanon does not enjoy the freedom of ongoing negotiations with Israel. From the ongoing talks between Israel and Syria under U.S. auspices, I have come to understand that Syria will not allow Lebanon to negotiate separately with Israel.

Rabin reiterated Israel's proposals to Lebanon within the framework of the peace talks. These proposals include the need to disband Hizballah and for the Lebanese Army to offer proof that it is capable of preventing any terrorist operations over the period of a year. If this is achieved, Rabin said, I believe that after this phase, we will be able, within few months, perhaps three months, to achieve a peace treaty with Lebanon on two conditions: the assimilation of the SLA soldiers and the border area inhabitants in the Lebanese Army and Lebanese state—as happened with the militias disbanded previously—and the achievement of security arrangements between Lebanon and Israel on the safety of the existing international border.

Rabin said these proposals were submitted to Syria and Lebanon about a year ago but have not been accepted so far. Referring to the various pressures being put on Israel and the border area, Rabin affirmed that Israel will deal with this pressure and will not allow it to continue. He affirmed that Israel's policy is to safeguard the border area and to strike at Hizballah and the Palestinian factions opposed to peace. He said: I cannot divulge anything more now.

Asked by our correspondent about the Lebanese state's prosecution of the border area inhabitants and about whether the peace agreement will deal with this issue, Rabin said: I reiterate Israel's conditions on the need for the assimilation of the SLA soldiers into the Lebanese Army and for not prosecuting the border area inhabitants.

On the participation of Palestinian gunmen in terrorist acts against the border area and on Hizballah's bombardment of the border villages, Rabin said the Palestinians opposed to peace are trying to carry out terrorist acts against Israel, whether in the West Bank and Gaza Strip or through their cooperation with Hizballah in attacking the border area. However, we will continue to fight them with the appropriate means.

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Regarding the border area, Rabin said the shelling of the villages in this area conflicts with agreement reached following Operation Accountability. We will deal with this issue so that the agreement will be applied by all parties, including Hizballah.

Rabin disclosed that some progress has been made in the talks with Syria, especially after military commanders have joined these talks. But he refrained from specifying a timetable for progress in these talks. He affirmed that there are still gaps between the Israeli and Syrian stances.

Rabin was accompanied on his visit to Marj 'Uyun by Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon; Gen. Amnon Shahaq, chief of staff of the Israeli Army; and Gen. 'Amiram Levin, commander of the Northern Region.

Discovery of Israeli Assassination, Spy Network Detailed

NC1101204895 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 6 Jan 95 pp 1, 13

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanese security services thwarted a plan for a new Israeli crime to assassinate Deputy Mustafa Sa'd [leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization] in Sidon late last week. The attempt came two weeks after the criminal bombing in Sfayr suburb by a network of Israeli agents—some of its members are now being tried by the military court—in which three citizens were martyred and eight others were wounded.

The security services also laid their hand on a new Israeli network assigned to spy on Hizballah and Amal bases in Beirut's southern suburb and in the liberated villages in the south.

AL-SAFIR learned that one of the detainees is Husayn Hashim Juhayr, a Lebanese. He was arrested early last week for theft. When he was searched, his wallet was found to contain a map, telephone numbers for al-Naqurah exchange, the name of a restaurant in Israel, a police telephone number, and numbers of buses and bus stations from Yafo to Haifa and Nahariyya in Israel.

He confessed during the interrogation that the map shows the roads leading to the house of Deputy Sa'd in Sidon. He confessed that he has been dealing with the Israeli enemy since 1984 and that he took a 10-day course to be an explosive and artillery expert in Israel. He was assigned many security missions on the orders of the Israeli agent Talib Siblini between al-Byyadah post and al-Hamra' crossing, where he watched travelers to and from the occupied border strip to identify people suspected of working for the resistance.

In 1988, he moved to the liberated areas on the orders of Siblini. He lived in Sidon for about five years during which he kept in constant touch with a certain Rabi' Yazbik to provide him with the information he obtained about party centers and the centers of the Palestinian Revolutionary Council. Yazbik relayed the information to Talib Siblini.

In 1993, Juhayr received an order from Rabi' Yazbik to move to Beirut and buy a van and use it as a vehicle for hire. Rabi' gave him $2,000 in two installments and provided him with a camera to photograph Hizballah centers in the southern suburb. Juhayr managed to take 24 pictures of these centers, and he handed them to Yazbik in Tyre.

In 1994, Juhayr moved to the town of al-'Itaniyah in the south and started watching Hizballah and Amal centers at Yazbik's orders.

About two months ago, Yazbik visited Juhayr in his house in al- 'Itaniyah and handed him the paper that contains the addresses and numbers on one side and the map on the other. He asked him to watch the movements of Deputy Mustafa Sa'd to prepare for his assassination by an explosive charge that would be placed in the van. He also gave him the telephone number of al-Naqurah exchange so that he would call him at his house.

A week later, Rabi' made a second visit to Husayn in his house, and was briefed about the results of the surveillance. Rabi' explained to Husayn how to park the booby-trapped van on the right side of the road to Sidon near the gas station. He drew the convoy of Deputy Sa'd on the map as five circles and ordered him to buy a sack of chemical fertilizer, sawdust, sugar, and about 30 kg of iron pieces to pack the device. He also asked him to buy the primer and told him he would call a week later to set a date for the bombing. But the van engine stalled and stopped working. Husayn called Rabi' and informed him of the matter, and they agreed not to do anything before Rabi' came back to see Husayn.

But the arrest of Juhayr foiled the operation. Half a sack of chemical fertilizer, sawdust, and sugar, and about 30 kg of iron shrapnel were found in Juhayr's house, and the van, parked in front of the house, was seized.

Juhayr, now held at the Lebanese Army's Intelligence Directorate, will be referred to the military court for trial.

[A 500-word report on page 7 of AL-SAFIR on 7 January says that Deputy Mustafa Sa'd received well-wishers who came to congratulate him on the failure of the assassination attempt. The report cites a statement by the Political Bureau of the Mustafa Sa'd-led Nasirite Popular Organization that the party "was not surprised at the disclosure of the dirty conspiracy that the Israeli enemy planned." The statement reportedly adds that "the competent Lebanese agencies have disclosed the Israeli network tasked with the assassination attempt and espionage."]

Dallul: No Palestinian Military Bases In, Near Beirut

NC1701070195 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has affirmed that Israeli air raids will not affect the firm

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domestic front and that the Resistance will continue as long as Israel occupies our land.

In a television interview, Dallul said the Israeli air raids are further proof that Israel is absolutely not interested in peace for peace's sake; it wants both land and peace. He denied that there are Palestinian military bases in or around Beirut. He affirmed that it was the Lebanese Army that opened fire on Israeli planes.

Russian Ambassador Comments on Chechnya Issue

NC1401122795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev has said that 1995 will be a decisive year on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the Middle East peace process.

After meeting with Foreign Ministry Secretary General Zafir al-Hasan, he said peace talks on these tracks are a political process ranging between ebb and flow. He added that what is happening now is a preparation to inject new blood into the peace process and activate it in a comprehensive and fair way. He emphasized that the points of agreement overwhelm those of contention.

He said his talks with al-Hasan dealt with the Chechnya question and the need to resolve it in the context of the Russian Federation's territorial integrity and constitutional legitimacy. He said that a military solution, according to information, will be implemented in the next few days.

Israeli Warplanes Reportedly Raid PFLP-GC Base

13 Raids Said Launched

NC1501154195 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1520 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tension escalated in the afternoon in a way not seen for some time. Israeli warplanes launched 13 raids on al-Na'imah hills, 5 km south of Beirut Airport. As a result, airport activity was suspended beginning at 1600, and all planes heading for Lebanon were instructed to fly outside Lebanese airspace until the raids ended, the vice chairman of Beirut Airport announced. At 1700, air navigation at Beirut Airport returned to normal, as the airport vice chairman reported. Many planes changed their routes, travelling to Larnaka [Cyprus] during the suspension.

Our correspondent reported that the raids targeted a base for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC]. He said Israeli aircraft began flying over al-Shuf and its coast at about 1430, releasing heat balloons. Security sources explained that Israeli warplanes and helicopters coming from the direction of the sea began the raids at about 1300. The sources said that four people were wounded. The injured, whose identity was not released, were taken to a hospital in Beirut's Southern Suburb. 'Ali Ahmad Hushaysh, 'Ali 'Askar, and 'Adnan Ghandur were identified among the injured. The Lebanese Army used its antiaircraft fire against the raiding planes.

Target Near al-Damur Attacked

TA1501160995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1540 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just received the following IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman's announcement: Israel Air Force planes today at noon attacked a terrorist target near al-Damur along the Lebanese coastline approximately 10 km south of Beirut. The target serves as a base for launching attacks for Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [—General Command] [PFLP-GC] organization. The pilots reported accurate hits, and the IDF spokesman reports that all the planes returned safely to base.

PFLP-GC Military Source Comments

JN1501183295 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1740 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother strugglers, I have just received the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

A military source within the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated the following: In light of the U.S.-Zionist onslaught against our Arab region, the Zionist enemy has continued to step up its aggression against our people in the occupied territory and our Arab people in Lebanon. The Zionist enemy is taking advantage of the state of submission forced by some agent rulers, such as 'Arafat and others.

The warplanes of the Zionist enemy have raided social and humanitarian positions belonging to the PFLP-GC in the al-Na'imah and al-Damur, south of Beirut. Today, 15 January 1995, between 1230-1630, the enemy warplanes conducted their raids, firing dozens of missiles and dropping dozens of bombs in 20 air raids by its warplanes and helicopters, targeting those social and humanitarian posts. The antiaircraft guns of the Lebanese Army were fired at the hostile aircraft.

The military source added: There are no casualties in the ranks of the administrative personnel of the PFLP-GC. There are some civilian injuries in the adjacent region.

The military source concluded: The Zionist enemy's continued raids against our positions will only make us more determined to pursue the path of struggle and jihad to liberate the land.

It is a revolution until the liberation of land and man.

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3 PFLP-GC Members Reported Killed

NC1501182395 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Lebanese Security sources said that as a result of the Israeli air raids on al-Na'imah hills, specifically against a Populor Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC] base, some 5 km south of Beirut Airport, three PFLP-GC members were killed and four others were injured. A PFLP-GC spokesman in Beirut stated to AFP that as yet he has not obtained information that there were dead among the front members.

A Palestinian source stated that four people were injured when their car had an accident as they were trying to flee in the car.

PFLP-GC Officials Say 'No Casualties'

JN1501180895 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a telephone contact made by a correspondent for al-Quds Radio—the Palestinian Arab radio on the road to the liberation of land and man—with an office of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] in the Lebanese capital, Beirut, an official who preferred anonymity said the following:

At exactly 1235, the warplanes of the Zionist enemy carried out concentrated bombing of the al-Na'imah region. The raids totaled 20, including six mock raids. There were no casualties. Antiaircraft guns were fired after the raids, with the participation of the antiaircraft guns of the Lebanese Army and the brother friends. The helicopters and the warplanes are still flying opposite our region. Extreme caution is still prevailing. As for the al-Na'imah region, the Zionist enemy conducted heavy mock raids against this region.

The PFLP-GC official concluded: Everybody knows that these positions have no military presence and offer health and social services to the people of the region, including the Lebanese and Palestinians. At any rate, a statement will be issued later.

In another telephone contact made by a correspondent for al-Quds Radio later today, an official within the PFLP-GC in Beirut said there were no casualties in the ranks of the personnel of the social posts that belong to the PFLP-GC as a result of the heavy raids that were conducted by the Zionist warplanes and helicopters.

Army Reportedly Shells IDF, SLA Positions

TA1701144795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Jan 95 p A10

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sources in south Lebanon have claimed that Lebanese Army soldiers yesterday shelled IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] positions in south Lebanon for the first time in a long period. Military sources in Israel yesterday confirmed that there were reports that the Lebanese Army had taken part in the shelling.

The sources expressed the assessment that the involvement of Lebanese Army troops in the shelling—after a two-year hiatus—was a reaction to the Israel Air Force's bombing of al-Na'imah and al-Damur, which are situated deep inside Lebanese territory near Beirut's international airport. [passage omitted]

SLA Commander Antoine Lahd warned that "the current situation in south Lebanon proves that the Lebanese Government is not doing what it should and is being dragged along by Hizballah activities. Syria controls the situation and dictates events. Hizballah then drags the Lebanese Government along." Speaking to correspondents in Metula, General Lahd said that Hizballah's aim was to reach Jerusalem through Lebanon. "On the one hand, the Syrians are negotiating for peace," Lahd explained, "but on the other hand, they are goading Hizballah into acting against Israel in south Lebanon. What the Syrians cannot do on the Golan Heights, they are doing in south Lebanon because it is not their land. What worries us is that the Lebanese Government permits Hizballah to carry out Syria's wishes, and it is a pity that no one in Beirut understands this.

As for whether he expects continued Israeli control over the security zone even after a peace treaty with Lebanon is signed, Lahd replied: "Israel must act in accordance with its own interests, which call for the continued existence of the security zone. If the Lebanese Government signs a peace treaty with Israel which includes all the Lebanese territory, including the security zone, then we will clearly remain in that area. We do not have a separate government here, and a peace treaty will in any case open the borders between the two countries. [passage omitted]

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Al-Asad: 'Capitulation to the Enemy Cannot Save Us'

JN1401191595 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At the People's Palace at 1245 today President Hafiz al-Asad received the brother representatives of the Arab peasants and cooperative farmers organizations participating in martyr Staff Major Engineer paratrooper Basil al-Asad studies as part of the meetings of the Central Council of the Arab Peasants and Cooperative Farmers General Federation, led by 'Ali 'Abd-al-Jalil al-Ghimari, secretary general of the Federation. [passage omitted]

President al-Asad thanked the Arab peasants and cooperative farmers for their true sentiments, and expressed his pleasure and that of Syria about their meetings in Damascus. He lauded the Arab peasants' struggle and role in the pan-Arab and economic fields.

The president discussed the current situation the Arab nation is passing through. He said, it is important for us, under these circumstances, to enjoy pan-Arab immunity which will allow us to deal with the world in light of our interests, approaches, and objectives as one Arab nation. We should not permit the attempts being made to exploit us and to confuse our minds to distract us from our Arab path.

The president added: Sometimes, the diversity of views among the Arab brothers should ultimately serve the objectives we are seeking. No matter how large the differences among the sons of the one nation may be, the pan-Arab link among them should remain stronger than these differences. Likewise, no matter how difficult the circumstances may be, we should preserve our morale and determination to attain our objectives, and we should also depend on ourselves.

The president pointed out that the Arab nation's current situation is painful. He said: Submission and capitulation to the enemy cannot save us. It is important for us to continue our agreement on the pan-Arab frameworks because what we will embark on is great and serious and needs vigilance, so our objective of regaining the land will be achieved. Land is the objective, and it should be regained without being mixed with humiliation because it will be meaningless to regain it mixed with humiliation. We reject solutions at the expense of our land, rights, sovereignty, and dignity, he added.

The president said Syria wants a just peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Al-Asad, Mubarak Hold Phone Conversation

JN1501213495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A telephone conversation was held today between President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. They discussed Arab issues.

Khaddam, al-Shar' Return From Yemen, Saudi Arabia

JN1601112195 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 16 Jan (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned home early this morning after conveying two letters to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, dealing with the Arab situation and the recent developments between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Yemen.

The efforts exerted by Syria upon the directives of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad have led to the containment of the recent tension in the border area between the two sisterly countries, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Yemen, in a manner that will help improve the Arab situation and realize Arab solidarity.

Successful Mediation Between Yemen, Saudi Arabia Seen

JN1701110295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Jan 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today, the newspaper TISHRIN says: The noble initiative of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has managed to contain the border crisis between Saudi Arabia and Yemen and pave the way for a profound fraternal dialogue between the two brotherly states. The Syrian efforts were crowned with success, because they stemmed from a true fraternal pan-Arab eagerness to protect Saudi and Yemeni brothers from mischief, to promote the nation's higher interests, to re-establish Arab solidarity, and to heal Arab rifts so we can confront our enemy, Israel. Driven by this eagerness, Syria, in the person of leader al-Asad, hastened to defuse the explosion and reduce tension between the two countries so that the tragedy of fraternal Kuwait will not be repeated.

The paper asserts that Syria has always been at the forefront of the Arab countries that seek to spare our homeland such disputes. That is why it has consistently called for closing ranks and forging unity.

The paper indicates that His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's initiative comes within the context of the Alexandria summit, which, as acknowledged by all observers, has heralded a pan-Arab rebirth and rehabilitated joint Arab action. The paper believes that the normalization of the situation between brothers in Saudi Arabia and Yemen will lend further momentum to the efforts to reestablish Arab solidarity and cope with the current deterioration.

For its part, the newspaper AL-BA'TH addresses Syria's role and pan-Arab responsibility, saying: Syria is well

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aware that the achievements Israel has made thus far are the outcome of the imbalance plaguing the Arab state of affairs. This has rendered the Syrian moves to plug up holes in the Arab wall an urgent necessity.

The paper adds: The contacts Syria has held, either through the envoys His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad dispatched to leaders carrying presidential messages or through the direct contacts he has personally held, were a manifestation of the shouldering of pan-Arab responsibilities, which Syria has always treasured to promote pan-Arab interests and secure and protect the national and pan-Arab option.

The paper goes on to say: Syria warns against going too far in the isolationist approach being pursued by Arab against Arab. Likewise, it would like to note that the unbalanced Arab state of affairs has allowed Israel to penetrate the Arab wall. The fact that some Arabs have shunned pan-Arab causes has contributed to the current deterioration.

The paper concludes by saying: Syria is well aware that there can be no peace between a strong party and a weak party, and that all the agreements achieved are merely temporary and short-lived deals. This is because for peace to be just and comprehensive, it has to be grounded in the restoration of national and pan-Arab rights; and this is impossible to achieve unless the Arabs become a rival to be reckoned with by Israel. Israel cannot give the Arabs peace unless the latter have the ability to maintain a state of peace amongst themselves. That is why Syria has been striving to restore Arab strength and rehabilitate Arab unity, and potentialities.

In a commentary today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The Arab nation is now, more than ever before, in need of solidarity and unity to defend its present and future and safeguard its rights and dignity. Israel's disregard for international legitimacy resolutions is the height of arrogance and haughtiness. Israel is opposed to a just and comprehensive peace. It is attempting to force its dictates on the Arabs. It seeks to dominate them, control their affairs, and usurp their rights.

The paper adds: Syria, which wants a just and comprehensive peace and seeks the restoration of all territories and rights, has shown a credible vindication of principle and international legitimacy resolutions. It believes that the peace battle it is waging is a pan-Arab battle by all standards. As such, this battle needs a joint Arab agreement on a common stand.

The paper goes on to say: The peace battle will not only influence certain Arab states. As a matter of fact, the whole nation will be influenced by the outcome of this battle. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has said: I have warned against departure from coordination and cooperation in the peace battle. The parties that have departed from coordination have weakened themselves, and become vulnerable to the conditions of Israel, which exploited the single-handed policies pursued by this or that party to force its humiliating conditions away from the essence of a true, just, and comprehensive peace.

Interior Minister Notes Efforts Against PKK

TA1701113795 Ankara Show Television in Turkish 2045 GMT 16 Jan 95

[Interview with Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah by Mehmet Ali Birand in Damascus on the "32d Day" program; date not given—recorded; Harbah's remarks in Arabic and Birand's remarks in English, with superimposed translation into Turkish]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Harbah] The border between Turkey and Syria is exactly 800 km. We signed an agreement with your government, and we monitor it strictly. We set up border stations; however, we do not have much power. For example, the distance between the border stations is approximately 40-50 km. Five to 10 policemen are stationed at every station. We catch those who try to infiltrate and imprison them. There are PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] members in our prisons, and we gave a list to Turkey.

[Birand] We believe that APO [Abdullah Ocalan] is here. You have always denied this. Where is APO?

[Harbah] I do not know where he is. I have no idea. He is forbidden to enter Syria.

[Birand] It is being said that Apo is now in Barr Ilyas in Lebanon, close to the Syrian border. You, together with the Lebanese Army, control that area. Surely you cannot say that it is outside your control and that you do not know.

[Harbah] The same issue was discussed when [former Turkish Interior Minister] Ismet Sezgin came here. It is true that there are Syrian troops in eastern Lebanon. We are there at Lebanon's invitation, however, and for a specific mission. Our troops cannot control everything. On the other hand, we did something better. Vice President Khaddam mediated between you and Lebanon. Thanks to his mediation, the Lebanese Government restricted PKK activities.

[Birand] Is the PKK a terrorist organization, a Kurdish resistance guerrilla movement, or a group of freedom fighters?

[Harbah] As far as we are concerned, resistance or freedom fighters are only Palestinian guerrillas who fight Israeli occupation. We call only them resistance fighters.

[Birand] So what is the PKK? Is it a terrorist organization?

[Harbah] The PKK is an organization that has been banned in Syria. The minute they violate our law, they are detained and brought to trial. They are not allowed to engage in political or international activities.

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Al-Shar' on Linking Water, PKK Issues

TA1701122895 Ankara Show Television in Turkish 2045 GMT 16 Jan 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Mehmet Ali Birand in Damascus on the "32d Day" program; date not given—recorded, in English with superimposed translation into Turkish]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Shar'] I will tell you two things: The first is that Turkey did not fulfill its promises. Prime Minister Demirel came here and conferred with President Hafiz al-Asad and said that the water issue will be concluded by the end of 1993. A year has passed and no agreement has been reached yet. Furthermore, Turkey is expanding its water projects without coordinating with us. This exacerbates the negative atmosphere. The second thing is that the opportunity to reach an agreement still exists.

[Birand] Tell us whether you consider the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] a terrorist organization or something else. If we agree on this point, the rest will be easier, because the belief in Turkey is that you do not oppose the PKK strongly enough.

[Al-Shar'] As far as we are concerned, resistance or freedom fighters are those who struggle in the occupied Arab territories, those who oppose the Israeli occupation.

[Birand] Is the PKK a terrorist organization? What is it? This is a simple question.

[Al-Shar'] The point is that we do not want to get involved in Turkey's internal affairs. For us, the PKK is an organization that has been banned in Syria. That is all. If an organization is banned, the meaning is clear.

[Birand] Mr. Minister, there is obviously a mutual lack of trust between Turkey and Syria. Therefore, why not take two actions simultaneously: on one hand, sign an agreement on the water issue, and on the other, guarantee that the PKK and Apo [Abdullah Ocalan] cannot enter Syria or operate in Syrian-controlled Lebanon?

[Al-Shar'] If Turkey wants to see a fast and comprehensive improvement in its relations with us, we are ready to take such a step. Let me tell you frankly here: Turkey's stability and territorial integrity are extremely important to us. If we can reach an agreement on the important issue of water, our people will view Turkey with more affinity and sympathy. Within this framework, we are ready to sign such a parallel agreement.

Radio: 'Time Is Running Out' for Peace

JN1501161495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 15 Jan 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Time is running out quickly. The Middle East peace process is still at square one after Israel obstructed it and resumed the policy of expansion and building settlements. This policy has been one of the most prominent and important obstacles to the achievement of peace in the region.

The expansion of settlements indicates the Israeli mentality by which the peace process is being run. It indicates the Israeli leadership's policy. This is the same mentality and policy that resulted in occupying Arab territories and making the Palestinian people homeless. This was condemned by the world through successive resolutions. The world, however, has not yet managed to rationalize or end this mentality and policy, despite the great efforts made so far, led by continued U.S. efforts.

More serious still is the fact that the tone of aggression and the threats to wage war have not abated, despite the substantive change of basic approach in the world, which has chosen the paths of peace, accord, and dialogue based on international legitimacy in order to solve disputes, end clashes, and find solutions.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has threatened to wage war, has circumvented great international efforts over the last three years, and has arrogantly and haughtily thrown overboard all international resolutions, along with the remaining simple truths about peace. It seems the Israeli leadership cannot hide this arrogance and haughtiness, even by way of respect for the efforts so far to create frameworks for the peace process and open the way for peace.

Despite our precise knowledge of Israel's military strength and the size of its conventional and nonconventional arsenal, the statements and threats to wage war under these circumstances hide a weak, shaky, and hesitant position. The facts revealed to Arab and world public opinion have exposed the Israeli position on the peace process and Israeli intentions, whether overt or the ones hiding behind the incomplete agreements signed with some parties.

As its history can tell, Israel's dream is not in harmony with peace. Likewise, Israel's aspirations do not conform to specific, known boundaries. Israel wants peace and land. It dreams of imposing its control and hegemony on the Arab people and on their destinies and decisionmaking, now and in the future. This strongly conflicts with fairness and a just peace.

The escalation in statements and the threats to wage Israeli aggression did not surprise us because we know the reality of things and are aware of the ground we are standing on.

So, why are those, who today are rallying under the Israeli peace banner, standing idly by. Why haven't these threats moved them? The language of threats conflicts and contradicts with peace. Peace is not an accident that can be dissipated whenever Rabin wishes. Peace is a strategic option that serves peoples' interests and aspirations. It is in harmony with the resolutions of international legitimacy and with the international consensus, and not with Israel's arrogance.

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Paper Views Israeli Threats, Nuclear Weapons

JN1401090895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Jan 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Nuclear Weapons, Justice, and Peace," AL-THAWRAH discusses in its editorial today Syria's view of the process of just and comprehensive peace and Israel's position on this process and the principles on which it is based.

AL-THAWRAH focuses on the issue of nuclear weapons. It stresses that the issue of nuclear weapons and making Israel submit to international criteria in dealing with this issue must become a comprehensive Arab strategy.

AL-THAWRAH says: A just and comprehensive peace cannot possibly be achieved in the region while Israel has a free hand in the nuclear field without any deterrence. This defect in the strategic balance in the region makes it very difficult to achieve a just peace.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: At any rate, neither the Israeli nuclear weapons nor the threats to stage war and aggression will make Syria budge an inch from its set conditions for a just and comprehensive peace; namely, full, comprehensive, and unconditional withdrawal from the Golan Heights, southern Lebanon, and the occupied territories.

Radio: Arabs Must Stand As One To Face Israeli Challenge

JN1601170595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1236 GMT 16 Jan 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Each time President Hafiz al-Asad speaks, Arabs and the whole world get an affirmation of how real Syria's stand and its strategic vision are on big issues. They also get an affirmation of Syria's eagerness to achieve the highest levels of cohesion, strength, and immunity, which alone are the sharper weapons that the Arabs should use in their struggle to maintain their independence, freedom, and dignity.

Syria has always called for improving the Arab stand and developing joint Arab action in all fields. It gave all its potential and exerted all its efforts to strengthen the Arabs' stand to face challenges which pose a threat to their security and to their present and future. Syria spared no efforts to improve Arab relations, clear the air, and end any tension that could rise between Arab brothers so they can confront big developments in the world through a united stand and a cohesive front in a world where there is no room except for big blocs and groupings.

From this premise, President al-Asad two days ago called for pan-Arab immunity that allows us to deal with the world in light of our interests, trends, and objectives as one Arab nation. Hence came the big Syrian effort to contain the conflict between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, which was crowned with great success that provided the climate for the brothers in both countries to sit at the negotiating table to solve their differences in a civilized manner, using a method of constructive and serious dialogue. This has always been Syria's position on the nation's issues. No one can ignore what Syria has offered throughout a quarter of a century for the sake of the central Arab cause. Moreover, no one can ignore Syria's brotherly role in Lebanon. Witnesses to this are too much to count.

Syria's concern about Arab solidarity and coordination and about the nation's immunity stems from a farsighted vision of the dangers threatening the nation if it continues with its disunity, its differences, its fragmentation, and its stands that are distant from one another. The world is heading toward unity and establishing big regions and groupings in Europe, the United States, and eastern Asia.

Arabs so far have not sensed what these changes mean for them and for their future. There is no doubt that with their human potential and natural resources Arabs can cope with this era if the willpower is there. Perhaps the first step in this direction is embodied in fortifying their stand, developing their relations, reinforcing their potentials, and, above all, in unifying their word, especially at this decisive stage of their history—a stage of negotiations for a just and comprehensive peace that restores Arab territories and rights to their owners and maintains everyone's dignity.

President al-Asad has pointed out that submission to the enemy cannot save us and that it is important for us to remain united on the pan-Arab frameworks because what is ahead of us is something big and serious that requires alertness so we can achieve our goal in terms of restoring the territories.

Arabs are seekers of a just peace and of right. However, they will not accept any kind of peace and the return of the land mixed with humiliation. This first of all requires a united Arab stand that is able to face the challenge. This is especially so since Israel, which is brandishing its weapon and threatening to launch wars, is seeking to tear the Arab ranks apart and to consecrate disunity and deepen Arab differences, which provide it with the appropriate climate so it remains the power that dominates the region militarily, politically, and economically.

Through their solidarity, coordination, and the unity of their word, Arabs should remove this weapon from the hands of Israel, which so far has been able to achieve gains on this or that front and at the expense of Arab rights. However, it will not be able to achieve such gains when the Arabs stand as one.

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Afghanistan

Opposition Council Agrees to Temporary Cease-Fire

LD1401172795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Afghan warring sides have agreed on a temporary cease-fire. Our correspondent reports from Islamabad:

[Unidentified correspondent] The High Coordination Council—the coordination of forces that oppose Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani—announced that it has agreed to a temporary cease-fire in order to speed up the transfer of power in Kabul.

According to a spokesman of the High Coordination Council in Peshawar, Pakistan, the cease-fire will be implemented for one week starting today. The spokesman added that during that period, all roads leading to Kabul will be open for the dispatch of foodstuffs and medicine.

Ahmad Shah Masud, commander of the Shura-e Nozar [Supervisory Council] forces, two days ago proposed a three-night cease-fire, including an end to the blockade of all roads leading to Kabul. He stressed that anti-Rabbani forces should guarantee that they would not attack the interim government that will take over power in Kabul.

The presidential term of Borhanoddin Rabbani ended on 28 December when he announced a unilateral cease-fire in Kabul. Mahmud Mestiri, the UN special envoy who has been holding talks with the two warring sides since then, has expressed the hope that the transfer of power in Afghanistan will take place as soon as possible.

Reports from Afgh[illegible]a say that a convoy carrying medicine and med[illegible] sent by the International Red Cross has reache[illegible]ul. Kabul, which has witnessed bloody clashes b[illegible] the warring sides, is facing a shortage of medici[illegible] medical equipment.

Mas'ud News Conference on Current Situation

LD1401204895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Jan 95

[News conference by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, chairman of the Kabul Security Commission, with foreign and domestic correspondents in Kabul on 11 January—-recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Mas'ud] Before I answer questions, I would like to speak briefly about the current situation and the military-political situation at present. [passage omitted: historical context]

The second stage is the present time and I hope we are near the end of this stage. As we approach the end of this stage, it seems appropriate to explain briefly at this point of time the political-military situation of the country.

The jehadi parties and the existing power centers in Afghanistan can roughly be divided into two parts: one major part is the State High Council and the other part is the Coordination Council [CC] plus one or two other formations who regard themselves as neutral. The High State Council consists of Jam'iyat-e Eslami, Harakat-e Enqlab-e Eslami, Ettehad-e Eslami, Harakat-e Eslami of Mr. Mohseni, and Hezb-e Wahdat, that is, five major groups.

The CC, as far as we know, consists of [word indistinct], Mr. Hekmatyar, Mr. Mazari, and a section of Jabha-e Nejat-e Meli [led by Mojaddedi, former president]

Let us see the positions of these two groups and their strategy:

The High State Council: the strategy of the High State Council in relation to the existing tense situation in Afghanistan is based on understanding, solution of issues by talks [words indistinct]. Because of this, the State High Council has based its strategy on a defensive approach. The state or any one in the State High Council [SHC] has ever claimed in any speech or interview, by way of warning or stating: we are going to eliminate the opposition and bring peace and stability by military means. [passage omitted]

It is clear to all that the SHC is the strongest side in the military and political points of view in the Afghanistan [words indistinct].

The CC's strategy is based on fighting [words indistinct]. Mr. Hekmatyar always says and talks of the eminent fall of Kabul by military means. [words indistinct] The CC and Mr. Hekmatyar have failed in their strategy, which is based on fighting.

Hekmatyar knows and he has come to believe that he cannot take over Kabul by fighting. [passage indistinct]

From the military point of view, the CC is not in a position to launch a large-scale attack on other regions in the country. This is a positive point and good news to all people of Afghanistan. As a result, the CC cannot do anything or topple the government by military means. [words indistinct] else. Hekmatyar is taking part in the political solution and talks, and trying to obtain a unilateral concession once again. I think he is trying again to obtain the opportunity to follow his previous strategy. Undoubtedly, the government and the SHC had gains during the past year from the military point of view. Because the state's line is a defensive approach, I can say confidently that if they start any attack in the near future, they will not succeed, as they were not successful during the year. This positive defensive line will continue.

Now we assess the case from the political point of view: As I have said earlier there are two sides—SHC and CC.

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The way the five formations got together and formed the SHC was a move that came about inside Afghanistan. It was a pure Afghani move based on Islamic thoughts and was not dictated from abroad. This unity came about on the basis of needs inside the country, and I believe that this unity and cohesion is a durable one. The CC or the opposition side, by its nature, is a formation in which no one believes; no one believes in its future or its continuation; perhaps they themselves do not believe in it.

The other point I want to say is that CC was formed at a particular point of time by the neighboring countries for the purpose of toppling the regime. And the main purpose of this unity was merely to topple the regime [word indistinct] neighboring countries. Moreover, dependency of Dostum to Uzbekistan and a number of generals of the former Soviet Union and the present Russia, is not a hidden thing and everyone know it. Therefore, as I said before, the CC was formed at a specific point of time for a special purpose and on the instruction of those countries who have a particular interest in Afghanistan. Fortunately, as it can be seen today, the political situation is changing in most of our neighboring countries and in the region. There are signs in Pakistan indicating that Benazir Bhutto no longer supports the continuation of fighting in Afghanistan, and she slowly, slowly is putting the necessary pressure on the Pakistani intelligence service. I am sure that the public opinion and people of Pakistan, who supported the people of Afghanistan during the jehad period, are not in favor of the continuation of tension and disorder in Afghanistan. For this reason, the present government of Pakistan is also under the people's pressure. I have information that the present government in Pakistan is under pressure by the capitalist class of Pakistan too. The capitalists in Pakistan see that the markets in Central Asia would remain out of their reach by continued tension in Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

There are signs in Uzbekistan, too. The recent invitation by Uzbekistan extended to the acting foreign minister of Afghanistan and the talks held there were very positive. This change of policy in Uzbekistan indicates that the government of Uzbekistan henceforth will not treat Dostam as before and will try—obviously this would be in the interests of Uzbekistan—to see peace and stability prevail in Afghanistan.

Thus, the recent signs noticed in Pakistan and Uzbekistan have brought about hope for a durable peace in Afghanistan.

The failure of the CC: The creation of a strong setup—the SHC—inside the country, a gradual change of policy in Pakistan and in Uzbekistan—all of these have brought about this hope that the ground is prepared more than at any other time for a durable peace, a durable cease-fire, and as a whole for a genuine and durable peace in Afghanistan.

I have said this clearly to the opposition, that if they want a concession then they must make a concession so that the people of Kabul become confident that no more fighting will flare up in Kabul after the political solution or after the talks have ended. Mr. Hekmatyar always insists on several issues: first, the transition of power, second, evacuation of Kabul; and then he mentions elections. [words indistinct] We are ready to transfer power; we are ready to evacuate Kabul; and we are ready to hold an election.

We ask this question of Hekmatyar: when power is transferred, will he give a guarantee that the fighting on his part against the transitional government will not be resumed? Mr. Hekmatyar must carefully answer this question. When power is transferred, how will Mr. Hekmatyar treat this government and how will the CC treat this government?

The SHC is in control of three things: political power, Kabul city, and a large number of other cities of Afghanistan, in particular Kabul. I believe that the majority of people will support the SHC having power, as well as Kabul, most of the cities, and the nation.

Mr. Hekmatyar is in control of two things: the first one is the cease-fire which he can always violate by firing rockets. The second is the control of highways. He has taken under his control the supply roads to Kabul and has stationed along these roads his notorious groups whose behavior is well known to the people of Kabul.

The state has said time and again that we are ready to transfer political power to another forum. But any setup or source who wants to have a role in the country's political solution and current crisis must answer this question explicitly: that when the existing government transfers power to another setup, what kind of concession should Mr. Hekmatyar make for not embarking on fighting in the future. This source must satisfactorily assure the people of Afghanistan and the people of Kabul on the fact that Mr. Hekmatyar can no longer fire rockets on Kabul in the near future or any other time.

We have said time and again that if all forces leave Kabul without leaving behind any potential for future fighting, [words indistinct] the government is ready to withdraw its forces from Kabul. It would not be helpful to future peace in Afghanistan, in particular in Kabul, when the government withdraws its forces from Kabul, but Mr. Hekmatyar with his uncontrollable groups remain in Kabul and continue their robbery. The Jowzjani militias yet again remain in Mazar and Hayratan, and thus cause annoyance and disrupt peace in the region.

We say this explicitly: that we are ready to withdraw our forces from Kabul, provided all groups along Kabul's supply routes are removed so that the people are no longer troubled by any group. Moreover, all various groups stationed at important border ports must withdraw their forces and allow the transitional government to station its forces there. The Jowzjani forces [referring to Dostam forces] must retreat from Mazar-e Sharif to their original base and evacuate Mazar-e Sharif to the

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transitional government's forces. The task of withdrawal of forces from Kabul must simultaneously take place with the evacuation of border ports, evacuation of Mazar-e Sharif, and evacuation of highways leading to Kabul. What I have said does not mean, God forbid, that I am creating difficulties in the peace process. It is so in order to have a guarantee regarding the opposition side.

[Passage indistinct] [Mamun] Satar Mamun, from KABUL WEEKLY: It has been said that there are differences among the state's high authorities regarding the transfer of power. One can mention the case of Esmail Khan [governor of Herat] which is a crucial issue. What do you think about this?

[Mas'ud] I assure you that there are no differences between the members of the SHC; this is not an issue at all.

[Qayum] Qayum from KABUL WEEKLY: As you have pointed out Mr. Hekmatyar has established a strong tie with Pakistan's ISI and General Hamid Gul who is one of the former high ranking officials of ISI. This man has come to Kabul together with a delegation from Sudan who are now conducting talks. Do you think that this will disrupt the United Nations sponsored peace process? If this is the case, do you not think that this should be left out? What is your opinion?

[Mas'ud] The political moves which have been started in Kabul by a number of Islamic personalities are not activities that are contrary to the United Nations work which is now in progress.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Mas'ud] In view of the Hezb-e Wahdat's charter, the majority members of the Hezb-e Wahdat's high council are now with Mr. Akbari [on side of Rabbani government]. In view of this charter, the Akbari faction can, in fact, be called Hezb-e Wahdat, not the faction of Mazari. 34 members of the high council are now with Mr. Akbari and only 7 or 8 members are with Mr. Mazari. On another level, in Hazarajat which is the base of the Hezb-e Wahdat, most of the districts owe allegiance to Mr. Akbari's faction. Regarding the neutrality of the Harakat-e Eslami and Harakat-e Eneqlab Eslami, I must say that both of these parties are taking part in the SHC and you always see this on television and can hear their talks.

['Abdollah] 'Abdollah from Associated Press: People were and are hopeful for the results of talks. If this hope is turned to disappointment and the peace process fails, what will you say to the people of Kabul?

[Mas'ud] I have already said that we are, God willing, approaching the end of the second stage and I do not see any capability on the part of the opposite side to resume large scale fighting. Also the countries which were giving them support in the past, have changed their policy and they do not, according to my analysis, want to continue the fighting in Afghanistan.

[Passage indistinct] [Mamun] Mamun from KABUL WEEKLY: We can gather from your statement that you are dissatisfied with the current talks in Chahar Asiab between the state and Hezb-e Eslami. If you are not satisfied, do you not think that the composition of the coalition in the state's side will alter?

[Mas'ud] I have not said that I am dissatisfied with talks held in Chahar Asiab. I hope this is a positive step for the solution of the issue. However, in view of past experience, we will take necessary precautions.

[Question indistinct]

[Mas'ud] We have always had friendly and fraternal ties and reciprocal cooperation with all individuals during the Jehad period and after the Jehad. These relations based on the basis [word indistinct] and Islamic thoughts in the interests of Islam and country. These friendly relations and cooperation continued. When our allies, whoever they were, altered their actions and behavior, worked not in the interest of the country and Islam, obviously, it was natural to break off such an alliance. We did not have the type of coalition, as alleged, with Dostam. [words indistinct] Those personalities of the [Najib] government who decided to join the Mojahedin, did so. You are all witness to the fact that we have never recognized any Hezb [party] with the name of Movement [referring to Dostam's party]. [words indistinct] We have recognized them as a military force and wanted them to be in charge of their own (?man), not beyond this.

Regarding Mr. Mazari, it is true that once we had good relations with him. [words indistinct] Mr. Mazari's subsequent deeds, including his misdeeds against his own Shi'i people and misbehavior inside the Hezb-e Wahdat, [words indistinct] we have then learned (?his true character) and his objectives and (?found it) difficult to live with such a person in a coalition.

[Correspondent] From BBC Radio: [words indistinct] You have recently been appointed as head of the organization of the Jamiat-e Eslami; what do you think? Is it not the first step for you to enter into the political field?

[Mas'ud] Political and military work were both carried out simultaneously during the Jehad period. It was essential for the person in charge of military work inside Afghanistan to carry out political work too.

[Correspondent] Regarding the composition of the commission recently worked out [words indistinct], it has been reported that this commission will consist of 18 members. In such a case, how many people from the State's allies or from the SHC will take part in this commission? [words indistinct] How many people from the opposition parties, how many from the State's side, and how many from outside the country?

[Mas'ud] The recent plan of the United Nations, accepted by the State and the SHC, is the following: one representative from each of the nine Jehadi formations,

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which makes nine representatives. Equal to this figure, or one or two more—nine, 10, or 11 people—from the people and power bases inside Afghanistan. The total will be 18 or more.

The nine people who will be introduced by the parties will be members of the parties, and a discussion has not yet been conducted about the nine or more other people. We do not know who those nine or more people will be.

[Correspondent] I read in one of your interviews that you were backing the cause of democracy but society is unfortunately moving in another direction, i.e., imposed militarism. If, God forbid, this process continues, how can that view be justified in the existence of such deeds?

[Mas'ud] I said to you a while ago that after the victory of the mojahedin, the hope was that the period of chaos would be very short and that peace and a strong regime would soon be created in Afghanistan. But unfortunately as a result of the foreign interference this matter and cause was not soon realized. But in the course of the past two and a half years, the other side and the neighboring countries gradually realized that that situation is not in their interests and that the Coordination Council cannot achieve anything militarily. Therefore, nowadays there is more hope that the issue will be resolved through talks and peacefully. So I do not think that militarism will be strengthened in the future.

[Correspondent] How do you assess the situation in Chechnya, especially in light of the Russian accusation that the state is involved in this issue—and we noticed that Russia bombarded Badakhshan, where casualties resulted?

[Mas'ud] We defend the oppressed anywhere on earth where a human being and a Muslim faces oppression and violence and reject the act of the oppressor. But this defense of the oppressed and the rejection of the oppressor's acts do not mean that we should send forces there or that we are behind it. Certainly, neither do we have forces in Chechnya nor are we behind it. But from the Islamic and humanitarian point of view, we consider the people of Chechnya oppressed. They are oppressed.

[Correspondent] It is said that the state has been conducting negotiations with the [Islamic and National] Movement. If the state has entered negotiations with the Movement, what condition has it conceded to them? What does it expect of the Movement?

[Mas'ud] This matter is totally incorrect and there is no contact in this respect.

[Correspondent] Nine organizations have been mentioned in the UN plan. Among them, Mr. Mazari's organization has been accepted as one of the organizations rather than Mr. Akbari's faction. Does this not cause a problem for the High State Council?

[Mas'ud] This is also under discussion. In this respect, talks were held with Mr. Mestiri, because the majority is with Mr. Akbari's faction, not with Mr. Mazari.

[Correspondent] Will you agree to a government being formed jointly by Jamiat and Hekmatyar?

[Mas'ud] There are not only Jamiat and Hezb in Afghanistan but many other jehadi parties exist too. It is better that all parties participate in the formation of a government.

[Correspondent] You have mentioned the evacuation of some ports such as Hayratan and the city of Mazar-e Sharif. Will power still be transferred if the other side refuses to accept this evacuation?

[Mas'ud] It depends on the form of the power transfer. In any case, we are ready for the power transfer even if the ports are not evacuated. But it is the evacuation of Kabul that is under discussion.

[Correspondent] Can you elaborate a bit more on this?

[Mas'ud] I said before that issue number one is the issue of the power transfer and the second is the evacuation of Kabul and the third stage is that of the elections. The state agrees with all three of them and is ready to transfer power provided necessary guarantees are given so that more fighting does not occur in Kabul. We are ready to evacuate Kabul provided main ports, Mazar-e Sharif and other major cities, shall also be evacuated. [words indistinct] If the transitional government asks us to cooperate in ensuring security in Kabul, we will not spare any cooperation and assistance to the transitional government.

[Correspondent] If the [words indistinct] or the transitional government commission commits an act that you do not agree with in terms of ideas and policy—what will you do in that case, taking into account your military might?

[Mas'ud] As I said at the beginning, our acts are based on the fact that all issues be resolved through talks and understanding, not through force and militarism. [passage indistinct]

India

U.S. Commerce Secretary Brown Meets With Ministers

BK1601161395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. business delegation led by [U.S. Commerce Secretary] Mr. Brown had meetings with the power minister, Mr. N.K.P. Salve, and the communications minister, Mr. Sukh Ram. Several agreements were signed at the meeting between the private sector firms of the two countries for setting up joint ventures companies in the communications and power sectors. Both Mr. Salve and Mr. Sukh Ram expressed the hope that these agreements will promote U.S. investments and bring the latest technology to India.

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Share prices staged a sharp recovery in Delhi and other stock exchanges following expectations of an upswing in India-U.S. economic cooperation. The Bombay Stock Exchange Sensitive Index rose by 50 points while the national index hardened by 16 points.

U.S. Investments Approved

BK1701092095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Decks have been cleared for another $2.6 billion American investment in the country. With this, the total American investment inflows marking the visit of the U.S. commerce secretary to New Delhi goes up to $4 billion. The new projects include a $100 million loan to the Indian Petrochemical Corporation for its Gandhar complex.

The American commerce secretary, Mr. Ronald Brown, and his delegation called on the prime minister in New Delhi this morning. They also held discussions with the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. Later, talking to reporters, Mr. Brown expressed satisfaction over his talks. He denied that the U.S. Administration is bringing pressure on Indian Government to open up the economy. The American commerce secretary expressed the view that there is need to allow foreign investments in insurance and financial services. He said more needs to be done in the sphere of intellectual property rights and copyright protection, though significant progress has already been made.

Commerce Minister Views U.S. 'Commercial Alliance'

BK1601090095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and the United States have agreed to set up an institutional framework for a commercial alliance between the two countries. A memorandum of understanding to this effect was signed by the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherji, and the visiting U.S. secretary of commerce, Mr. Ronald H. Brown, at a function in New Delhi this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the commerce minister, Mr. Mukerji, hoped that the alliance will lay the foundation for mutually beneficial commercial ties between the two largest democracies of the world. Under it, private sector in either country will develop work plans and procedures for the business alliance. Such alliance will discuss commercial cooperation in specific sectors, including information technology, transportation infrastructure, food processing and packaging, and power. The commercial alliance also provides a general framework to guide cooperation between the governments of the two countries. It will be headed by a board of private sector representatives nominated by both the governments.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Brown said signing of the commercial alliance will further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

Later, some private sector representatives from the United States presented their viewpoints on strengthening bilateral business ties.

Earlier, during delegation-level meetings between the two sides, India pressed for further extension of Generalized System of Preference scheme beyond July this year to provide access to Indian goods in the U.S. markets. Mr. Mukherji also raised the issue of antidumping and countervailing duties levied by the United States. He stressed the need for keeping out the extraneous elements for deriving maximum benefit from the results of Uruguay Round of trade talks.

Editorial: Policies Made Under Foreign 'Pressure'

BK1601072595 Delhi THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Jan 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Candy for Uncle Sam"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Will the government ever learn to stop acting only under pressure? Hours before Prime Minister Narasimha Rao went to the United States last year the Union cabinet ended months of dithering and cleared the new telecom policy. A day before the U.S. energy secretary, Ms Hazel O'Leary arrived in India important policy decisions were taken relating to private investment in the energy sector. This was repeated a day before the Union power minister, Mr. N.K.P. Salve paid a return call on Ms O'Leary in Washington. Once again, to coincide with the visit of the U.S. defence secretary, Mr William Perry, and the U.S. commerce secretary, Mr Ronald Brown, the Union cabinet cleared a clutch of projects worth as much as Rs [rupees] 12,632 crore. Reportedly most of these projects will bring new business to U.S. companies. Similar gestures have been made to other such foreign visitors, from capital-surplus economies. The Union cabinet, which is now half empty and almost always busy with internal dissension, seems to wake up to give its approval to new business proposals or economic policy changes only when some high-powered functionary from a developed country arrives in India or the Prime Minister is about to take off on some investment-seeking mission. Why should this be so? The government seems unabashed that so many of its policy decisions are patently genuflexions made to please visiting dignitaries or donor governments.

Despite the differences, that persist on macroeconomic policy between various political parties in India, a concurrence of views on industrial policy has in fact emerged. In the aftermath of the economic crisis in Mexico it has now become even more clear that it is in India's interests to attract long-term capital. In the form of foreign direct investments, and earn foreign exchange through exports rather than depend on short-term financial flows. There will be a broad consensus in India on this issue. If so, the government should have a transparent and clear policy on foreign investment rather than deal with the issue so as to suggest that it is acting under external pressure. It is no secret now that even foreign

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governments are becoming wary of the non-transparent "clearance procedures" in India and have begun commenting on them in public. It was the U.S. ambassador, Mr Frank Wisner, who first spoke of the need for transparency in foreign investment approvals. The Singapore prime minister, Mr Goh Chok Tong repeated this point in his address to the Confederation to Indian Industry in Calcutta last week. In the face of such criticism, not to mention domestic public opinion, the government should put in place more enduring systems for investment approval rather than opt for a stop-go, favour-seeking approval process. As long as the government gives the impression to foreign investors and governments that it is willing to act under pressure it will only invite the further exertion of such influence.

Editorial Says U.S. 'Does Not Trust India'

BK1701110095 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 17 Jan 95 p 4

[Editorial: "The United States Will Continue To Interfere"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The main aim of U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry's visit to India and Pakistan was said to be the strengthening of security in South Asia. It is important to strengthen regional security for world peace and security because after the Cold War, tension between the two superpowers has taken the form of localized confrontations in various parts of the globe. According to U.S. leaders, some of these confrontations could take the form of widespread war. Tension between India and Pakistan also could create such a situation. That's why the U.S. is propagating the argument that there should be openness between India and Pakistan in military and security matters so there is no possibility of a sudden war. After the defense cooperation agreement which William Perry signed with India, the United States will have access deep into the Indian security system. But the United States also has a similar arrangement with Pakistan. The purpose of all the agreements that have been signed between the United States and Pakistan, right from joint exercises with the Pakistani defense forces to the exchange of officials, is to gain complete knowledge of the security system and capabilities of Pakistan. The U.S. defense secretary has promised India that his country will not take any steps in which Pakistan could benefit from information the U.S. gains from India. He also made a similar promise in Islamabad.

But there are some aspects which cause doubt about the U.S. concern for world peace. For example, the United States did not receive assurances from Pakistan that it would not acquire the modern M-11 missile from China whereas it has been continuously opposing the Indian space organization. Despite clear proof, Perry refused to declare Pakistan a terrorism supporting country. The most disturbing news is that the United States wants to establish a nuclear explosion detection center in Pakistan. The United States has not been successful in forcing India to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, but by establishing a nuclear-explosion investigation center, it is trying to keep an indirect watch on the nuclear arms production activities in the subcontinent. China already possesses nuclear arms. Despite pressure, China has been conducting nuclear experiments; therefore, the aim of a nuclear investigation center in Pakistan cannot be to search for nuclear explosions taking place in China. Its aim can only be to keep a watch on India. It is clear that despite pleas of frankness and transparency, the United States does not trust India. The United States has been receiving information about any experiments taking place through satellites. But India's first experiment in Pokhran was an underground one. Hence, the need for a center which can measure the dispersion of earthquakes and radiation. Another motive of this center would be to detect nuclear experiments in Iran and the countries of the Middle East. U.S. experts are saying that Iran is making progress towards exploding a nuclear bomb. This will not help in strengthening peace in South Asia, but the possibility of distrust among the countries in this region will arise. In this context, the main aim of William Perry's recent visit seems to be to try and make Pakistan its foremost strategic post.

Spokesman on Reducing Pakistani Mission Staff

BK1601033295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has asked Pakistan to withdraw 15 staff members from its High Commission in New Delhi to reduce its strength to 110—similar to the strength of the Indian Mission in Islamabad. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that the suggestion has been made in accordance with the code of conduct agreed by the two countries in 1991 that there should be parity in the staff strength of their missions. The spokesman denied that India is expelling any employee. While asking Pakistan to reduce its staff strength, New Delhi has given the employees one month time to leave the country. The spokesman said that in case of any difficulty in the departure of the staff, the government is prepared to be flexible.

Activists of the Indian Young Kisan-Mazdoor [peasant-laborer] Congress yesterday staged a demonstration in front of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi. They were protesting against the closure of the Indian Consulate in Karachi. The demonstrators also expressed anguish over Pakistan's continued support to terrorists and secessionist activities in India.

Official 'Press Release'

BK1601152895 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1505 GMT 16 Jan 95

["Press Release"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Replying to a query, the spokesman said that on 13th January 1995 Ministry of

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External Affairs conveyed to Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi that on the basis of the principle of parity in the strength of the diplomatic missions of the two countries in Islamabad and New Delhi, as stipulated in the Code of Conduct of August 1992, the staff strength of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi shall not exceed 110 personnel.

The spokesman added that accordingly, India has sought the withdrawal of 15 members of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi from India in a month's time. We have offered that in specific instances flexibility would be shown regarding the time-frame on humanitarian grounds. The spokesman said that these 15 personnel had joined the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi against 20 additional posts, over and above 110, sought by Pakistan during the period since April, 1994.

The spokesman clarified that the effective strength of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad at the moment is 106 personnel as due to difficulties in obtaining assignment visas from Pakistan, some Indian officials on transfer have had to leave the mission without replacements.

New Delhi

16.1.1995

Navy Formally Commissions New Vessel 'Vidyut'

BK1701065595 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] INS [Indian Navy Ship] Vidyut joined the Indian Navy today. The ship was formally commissioned by the minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, at an impressive ceremony at the Mormugao Port Trust. The ship will form a part of the formidable 22d Killers squadron, the cutting edge of the nation's maritime defense. INS Vidyut built by Goa Shipyard Limited is fitted with the state-of-the-art equipment and is propelled by a powerful gas turbine. It is the fastest ship in the Navy till date. Charged with the dual role of attack and defense, the ship (?attacks with a) powerful punch in the form of surface-to-surface missiles, medium and close range guns, and surface-to-air missiles.

Detector for Plastic Explosives Developed

BK0801104095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Forensic Department in collaboration with the Bhabha Atomic Research Center has developed a plastic explosive detector. The detectors are fitted with nuclear devices to detect high-explosive plastic bombs and also RDX which normally elude metal detection tests. Talking to newsmen in Calcutta, the chief forensic scientists of the Bureau of Police Research and Development said that the devices will be installed at strategic points such as airports, ports, railway stations and other areas.

Iran

Daily on U.S.-Israel 'Campaign' on Nuclear Issue

LD1501121195 Tehran IRNA in English 1122 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 15, IRNA—Washington is not in a position to tell Iran or any other Muslim state how to build their defense needs, a morning daily said here Sunday [15 January] commenting on the recent U.S. and Israeli anti-Iran campaign on its nuclear build-up.

The English-language "KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL" wrote in its editorial that Washington and Tel Aviv have started a new campaign against Iran's so-called nuclear weapon program.

The perceived plan to acquire nuclear technology for military use is almost a daily story in Tel Aviv and also the Western world, noted the paper, adding that politicians and experts of different creeds insisted that Tehran's "non-civilian nuclear program is at an advanced stage."

"World public opinion is not unaware of how Iran has been treated by the big powers ever since our people decided to say no to outside interference in our internal affairs and started to question the legality of big power interests in this part of the world. For this we paid a high price (war, sanctions, isolation) but did not succumb."

Stressing that demonizing Iran had few takers these days, the paper pointed to "ample reasons" to document Tehran's stance on the peaceful use of nuclear energy and said that recognized international bodies have visited Iran, investigated, studied and matched official statements with grand realities and "found nothing fishy."

American and Zionist leaders seemed to be running out of ideas on Iran, said the paper, noting that they were trying to exaggerate Iran's atomic agenda as they did, and still do, with its revolutionary and Islamic program.

Arguing why should Israel, a real threat to regional stability, possess and develop nuclear arsenal with full U.S. backing while the Muslim countries be banned from acquiring the same weapons, the paper said such "double standards has roots in the U.S.-led Western alliance and has been exposed on more occasions than one." "With little imagination and information people can realize that one is better off with nuclear power when conflict develops. For it is a great weapon in the arsenal of both offense and defense."

Speaking from a basically neutral standpoint, the article said in conclusion, it was "ludicrous to prohibit nuclear

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proliferation in the Islamic world and allow the Zionist state easy access to the West's sophisticated weapons-grade nuclear technology."

Need for Solution to Saudi-Yemeni Dispute Noted

NC1501092095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 15 Jan 95

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] With the buildup of military forces on the borders of Saudi Arabia and Yemen, tension in relations between the two countries have been mounting as well as fears that the Middle East will witness yet another conflict.

Incoming reports indicate that in its latest attempt, Saudi Arabia has deployed heavy arms, namely missile launchers and F-16 fighters, on the Yemeni border and has strengthened its forces. While deploying these forces, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has contacted the heads of Arab states and has briefed them on the conflicts between the Saudi and Yemeni forces.

Referring to the Saudi buildup and the deployment of heavy arms on the Yemeni border, political experts foresee an extensive attack by Saudi forces in the next few days. Thus, in view of the volume of Saudi forces and the Yemenis' emphasis that they will defend their territory and will regain the three provinces of 'Asir, Najran, and Jizan, these conflicts may turn into a full-fledged war.

The major difference between Saudi Arabia and Yemen over the three provinces of 'Asir, Najran, and Jizan dates back many years. Some 58 years ago, in the 1930's, Saudi Arabia occupied these three provinces and signed an agreement with Yemen under which the latter agreed that these areas would be under Saudi rule for a limited period. Although this agreement was renewed several times, its last expiration date was 1992. Thus, Yemen claims that with the expiration of the agreement, Saudi Arabia has to return the three provinces to Yemen. Nevertheless, Saudi Arabia refuses to do so.

Yemen, which before 1990 was recognized as two small countries with conflicts against one another, today feels stronger than before because of its potential. Thus it is trying to make up for its past weakness—that is, handing over part of its territory to Saudi Arabia—by regaining them. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia, which has tried to set up installations in these areas for years and to turn the three disputed provinces into Saudi provinces, does not show any signs that it intends to return them.

However, the history of the various conflicts in the region shows that the two sides have no other alternative but to choose peaceful means to resolve their differences. Otherwise, they will become involved in a crisis that, in view of the balance of the two countries' forces, can only result in the destruction of both countries' potential.

Officials Hold Talks With French Secretary General

Strengths, Weaknesses of Ties Viewed

LD1501111995 Tehran IRNA in English 0726 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 15, IRNA—New horizons have appeared in Irano-French ties following the trial of the assassins of the former regime's Premier Shapour Bakhtiar in which Iran was found innocent of any involvement, a morning daily wrote Sunday [15 January].

"These relations, however, have several strengths and weaknesses," the English-language "IRAN NEWS" added.

The weaknesses include first the inadequate level of trade exchange between Iran and France, it said adding that given the open hostility of the U.S. and Britain toward Iran, it is not fit for Iran to have greater trade volume with the U.S. and Britain as compared with France.

Second, it stressed, there is the matter of the return of some of the leaders of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) to Paris following the security problems they faced in Baghdad.

"In view of the MKO's historical record of sabotage, their presence in France can beset broadened ties with serious tangles," it said.

Third, the daily noted, Paris' all-out support for the military-installed Algerian Government's massacre of its citizens has tarnished France's image in Iran.

Nevertheless, in recent days, the French policy-makers have fundamentally revised their policies related to Algeria, the article said, adding that using its spiritual influence over the Algerian groups, the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully prepared to mediate between France and the said groups.

Now to get to the strengths, the paper said, first France can serve as a strong partner for Tehran in view of its relatively independent Iran policy.

This is especially true since the French have so far proven that they can tolerate the pressure exerted by Washington better than other industialized countries, it remarked.

"Second, Tehran can serve as a strong partner for Paris now that French ally in the region, Iraq, has been ostracized and now that the six Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) members are intensely dependent on Washington and London."

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Third, it said, in the wake of the Soviet debacle and in view of France's national interests which demand promotion of relations with Central Asia, Iran can serve as a bridge linking Paris with the newly-independent republics.

The paper further underlined that France is fully cognizant that its delayed appearance and presence in Central Asia will enable its rivals to take over the region's markets.

Fourth, the French socialists were defeated in last year's elections and, in addition, with the withdrawal of Jacques Delors from candidacy, the socialists no longer have a worthy candidate for the upcoming elections, it noted.

The article concluded by saying that since the socialists have nurtured unjustifiable hostility toward Iran, seasoned observers feel that with the Gaullists in power, Irano-French relations will improve rather quickly.

Security, Nuclear Issues Discussed

LD1601165595 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA—Iran's first vice-president, Hasan Habibi here on Monday [16 January] emphasized the need for new avenues to upgrade Franco-Iran cooperation.

In a meeting with the visiting secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry, Bertrand de Fourque, Habibi said that the Islamic Republic of Iran was always for strengthening of relations with all the states on the basis of non-interference in each other's affairs and mutual respect.

Referring to the importance of maintaining security in the Persian Gulf region by the regional states, he said that Iran prefers to use its resources for reconstruction and development and wants friendship with all its neighbours in the Persian Gulf region.

Habibi voiced concern over the interference of the aliens in the Persian Gulf region and said that Iran had expressed this concern at international organizations and world assemblies.

Habibi said Iran was for elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons throughout the region.

According to the public relations office of the president, De Fourque said that Iran and France held common views on many international issues.

He said France was aware of Iran's importance in the region and was willing to expand the grounds for cooperation between the two countries.

De Fourque lauded Iran's achievements during the recent years.

Ruhani Discusses EU 'Readiness'

LD1601212695 Tehran IRNA in English 1946 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA—Majles vice-speaker, Dr. Hasan Ruhani said here on Monday [16 January] that the political will of the Islamic Republic of Iran favours having a perpetual, long-term and wide-ranging relations with France.

In a meeting with the visiting secretary general of French Foreign Ministry, Bertrand de Fourque, Ruhani voiced Iranian readiness to build relations with the European Union (EU) at parliamentary level.

France has undertaken the periodic leadership of the EU.

Ruhani who is also the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), said that the strong and stable Iran can be effective to restore and maintain peace and security in the very sensitive region of the Persian Gulf.

Ruhani condemned the current arms race pursued by the Western states through inordinate sale of arms to the regional states and said that Iranian military capability was merely defensive.

Iranian strategy for defence does not depend on modern equipments, Ruhani said.

Hojatoleslam Ruhani said that Iran allocated only four billion rials for defence budget for five-year term in the first development plan. The budget was very small compared with that of the other regional states, he said.

Ruhani deplored that the U.S. and the Zionists have engaged in a campaign of disinformation against Iran, totally ignoring Iranian peace efforts in Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Karabakh.

Majles vice-speaker voiced Iranian readiness to send relief aid including medicine, food and clothes to Chechnya and called on French Government not to be influenced by anti-Iran propaganda of the Zionists.

M. de Fourque announced his country's readiness to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The French official expressed concern about loss of lives in Chechnya and said that France as the periodic chairman of the EU has announced its concern about the developments in Chechnya. Russia has led Chechen people to an ordeal, De Fourque said, we urged dispatch of international observers to Chechnya and Russia accepted.

De Fourque said that a just solution should be found in Bosnia-Herzegovina and a government should be restored there with participation of different groups.

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Cypriot Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

Mikhailidhis Meets Commerce Minister

LD1401222995 Tehran IRNA in English 2105 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 15, IRNA—Commerce Minister Yahya ol-Eshaq here yesterday in a meeting with the visiting Cypriot Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexandros Mikhailidhis, called for the expansion of relations between Iran and Cyprus.

Ol-Eshaq said that considering the Cypriot economic situation and its relations with the regional countries and also relations between Iran and the newly independent countries, it was essential that the two countries expand their cooperation.

Ol-Eshaq said that by joining the European Union (EU) Cyprus can guarantee its entry to the Euro-African markets.

Cyprus can also cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the third party markets especially in the markets of the newly independent countries, ol-Eshaq added.

He said cooperation between the two countries so far can be developed by paying more attention to the financial and banking issues and by implementation of the experts' evaluation.

The two countries also would be able to cooperate with each other in the area of the strategic silk road with Iran as the hub in the field of marine and land transportations, said ol-Eshaq. he also called for setup of exclusive trade fair between Iran and Cyprus.

In the meeting, Mikhailidhis referred to the potentialities of his country and expressed hope to pave the way for expansion of relations between the two countries by removing the obstacles.

Commentary Views 'Expansion' of Ties

LD1401203795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 14 Jan 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Cypriot foreign minister, Mr. Mikhailidhis, arrived in Tehran at the head of a politico-economic delegation on Saturday, January 14.

Talking to the Islamic Republic News Agency upon his arrival, the Cypriot foreign minister said: The purpose of the visit was to upgrade the level of the two countries' cooperation. He expressed hope that with the upgrading of the two countries' ties bonds of friendship between the two nations will be reinforced.

It is due to the same reason that during his talks in Tehran the Cypriot foreign minister will also discuss cultural cooperation with the Iranian officials. The Tehran-Nicosia ties have been experiencing expansion during the recent years and the two countries' officials too have always underlined their inclination in this connection during their previous meetings.

From politico-economic point of view, the geo-political situation of Iran and Cyprus is among the significant factors that have played a part in bringing about closer affinity between Tehran and Nicosia. This dimension is of significance for both countries in that, geographically speaking, Cyprus is located within Turkey's southern coastal waters and the Mediterranean Sea and is considered as an important part of the sea and air links between Iran and the western mediterranean countries.

Owing to its special geographical situation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, too, has links with the countries in the subcontinent and Central Asia.

At any rate, the visit undertaken by the officials of the two countries in the past—including the September 1993 visit to Cyprus by the Iranian deputy foreign minister for the Asia-Pacific affairs, Mr. Ala'eddin Borujerdi - are indicative of the two countries' interest for the promotion of bilateral ties. From the political angle too, given the presence of regional crisis, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been willing to mediate in the Cyprus-Turkey dispute over the Northern part of the Cypriot island. Therefore the visit to Tehran by the Cypriot foreign minister and the accompanying delegation is considered as quite significant in view of the aims of the visit and the talks that the Cypriot foreign minister is going to have with the senior officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Cypriot foreign minister is also carrying the Cypriot president, Mr. Kliridhis's message for the Iranian president Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. At any rate, it is expected that during the three-day visit the two sides would be able to achieve their economic goals that primarily include making the two countries' private sector more active and investment in Iran's free trade-zones by Cyprus.

Mikhailidhis Meets Rafsanjani

LD1501121595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received the Cypriot foreign minister who presented him a written message from the Cypriot president.

In this meeting President Rafsanjani referred to the fact that there are various fields for the expansion of relations between Iran and Cyprus, and hoped that the exchange of senior delegations between the two countries would prepare the way for deepening bilateral relations.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also expressed concern over the situation and events in the Balkan area and emphasized the need for a serious and unbiased effort by the United

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Nations and other international organizations to end regional and world conflicts.

He added: Taking into account the sensitivity of the regions in the Balkans and north of the Mediterranean Sea, the leaders of these regions could, through wisdom and logic, bring about a climate of friendship and cooperation toward finding a just solution to the problems.

In turn the Cypriot foreign minister said his country greatly values relations with Iran and works toward expansion of bilateral relations.

Announcing his country's interest in friendship and understanding with all neighboring countries, he emphasized the role of the United Nations and other international organizations in establishing peace in the Balkan region.

'Bright Prospect' Predicted

LD1601093595 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan 16, IRNA—The visiting Cypriot foreign minister, Alexandros Mikhailidhis, discussed latest developments in Tehran-Nicosia relations as well as regional and international issues in the second round of talks with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Sunday [15 January] night.

Mikhailhidis referred to Iran as a reliable government in economic, trade and political fields and predicted a bright prospect for mutual cooperation of the two countries in future.

He underlined Nicosia's interest in expanding relations with Tehran in all dimensions specially in tourism and trade.

Describing his talks with Iranian officials as effective for the expansion of bilateral cooperation, Mikhailidhis underscored importance of upgrading Tehran-Nicosia relations as a means towards international economic development and security.

In reply Velayati referred to the significance of mutual relations between the two countries and stressed that continuation of bilateral cooperation would speed up materialization of regional cooperation.

The Cypriot foreign minister arrived here last Saturday on a three-day official visit.

Rafsanjani Receives UAE Agriculture Minister

LD1501113595 Tehran IRNA in English 1108 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 15, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Agriculture Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sa'id Muhammad al-Raqbani here Saturday [14 January] reviewed issues of mutual interest.

During the meeting, al-Raqbani submitted a message from the UAE ruler, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, to President Rafsanjani.

Al-Raqbani is currently here for the fourth meeting of agriculture ministers of the Islamic states.

The three-day conference was inaugurated here Saturday by President Rafsanjani with ministers and representatives from 48 countries out of 52 member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) attending the meeting.

The food security in the Islamic countries is among major topics to be discussed by the participants in the conference.

Brunei Agrees Closer ECO, ASEAN Cooperation Needed

LD1601064895 Tehran IRNA in English 0620 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 16 , IRNA—First Vice-President Hasan Habibi in a meeting with the industry and primary resources minister of Brunei Darussalam, Abdul Rahman, here Sunday [15 January] underlined closer coopration between Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Habibi termed the visit of the Bruneian sultan to Iran and President Rafsanjani's trip to Brunei as a prelude to political, cultural, economic and trade coopration between two countries.

He stressed that despite the long distance, the two Muslim countries could cooperate more in the fields of their mutual interest given their historical and cultural backgrounds.

Referring to the abundance of material and human potentials in ECO member countries, Habibi said that ECO could thus have further cooperation with ASEAN through exchange of views, adding that private sectors of both the countries could play an active role in this respect.

The Bruneian official lauded the achievements of the OIC (Organization of the Islamic Conference) ministerial conference on food security and agricultural development, to conclude work in Tehran today.

Underlining expansion of the activities of private sectors in the two countries, Rahman said his country is a good gate to free trade with the world, Asian countries including ASEAN member states in particular.

Ruhani Discusses Security With Pakistani Envoy

LD1601170795 Tehran IRNA in English 1641 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA—Majles vice-speaker, Hojatoleslam Hasan Ruhani here

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on Monday [16 January] called for further cooperation between Iran and Pakistan to provide security on the border areas.

In a meeting with Pakistani ambassador to Tehran, Khalid Mahmud, Ruhani said that expansion of railway and road networks between the two countries depended on maintenance of security in the borders.

Ruhani who is also the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) called for restoration of peace and security in Afghanistan through further cooperation between Iran and Pakistan.

The Majles vice-speaker described the Zionist regime as a great danger to the region's stability and said what is termed as peace by Israel is mere slogan.

Ruhani said that relations between Iran and Pakistan were deep-rooted and excellent. The two countries enjoy common grounds for vast cooperation in all areas, he said.

The Iranian official expressed concern about the developments in Kashmir and said that Iran was eager to see normalization of life there.

Khalid Mahmud briefed Ruhani on the latest developments in Kashmir and called for expansion of relations between Iran and Pakistan.

According to the public relations office of Majles, expansion of parliamentary relations between the two countries, holding a joint meeting between the female MPs of Iran and Pakistan and a joint meeting between the speakers of parliaments of the member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) were other topics of discussion between Ruhani and Khalid Mahmud.

Khorasan Province Signs Cultural Accord With Baku

LD1501143195 Tehran IRNA in English 1347 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad, Jan. 15, IRNA—The northeastern province of Khorasan and Baku, the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan signed a cultural and arts agreement here Sunday [15 January].

The agreement was inked by Director General of the Culture and Islamic Guidance Department of Khorasan Province Javad Aryanmanesh on behalf of Iran and the deputy governor general of Baku on behalf [of] Azerbaijan.

Under the agreement, the two sides will exchange traditional music groups, puppet shows and feature films in addition to holding painting exhibitions in Baku and Khorasan. [Name indistinct] governor general who is also a member of parliament said Iranian movies with their humanitarian themes which are signs of dynamism and devotion were very popular with the Azeri people.

Foreign Ministry's Rafsanjani on Gulf Issues

MM1301155495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Jan 95 p2

[Interview with Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Foreign Ministry under secretary and brother of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, by Faris al-Salman in Kuwait; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Salman] What are the aims of your visit to Kuwait?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have come to hold talks on regional and international issues and to strengthen bilateral relations with the state of Kuwait.

[Al-Salman] What regional issues have you discussed with the Kuwaiti officials?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have discussed Israel's attempts to penetrate the region as well as cooperation between the states of the region.

[Al-Salman] Will you be signing some agreements with the state of Kuwait?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have come to exchange views not to sign agreements.

[Al-Salman] Does the message you brought include an invitation to the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah to visit Tehran, and does it also address the peace process?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The message addressed the dimensions of the threat of the Israeli presence in the region. We also renewed the invitation to the amir of Kuwait to visit Tehran.

[Al-Salman] Some circles claim that Iran had a hand in the recent events in Bahrain.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We firmly reject these claims. We said at the time that we had nothing to do with these internal events.

[Al-Salman] It has been rumored that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid will visit Tehran soon. Is that true?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I have read that in the press. The Iranian Foreign Ministry has no knowledge of it.

[Al-Salman] Kuwait has emphasized that it is "watching the Iranian armament program which is liable to bring the region to the boil." That also reflects the feelings of the Gulf states' peoples, who are worried about that armament.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The volume of the arms deals concluded by Iran does not reach even one fiftieth of the volume of armament of the states of the region. I have read in the press that some Arab states have allocated $1 billion for arms purchases in 1995. Over the past three years the states of the region launched intensive purchase

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campaigns. The Israeli armament is greater than that of Iran, and that is in addition to the fact that it has nuclear and atomic weapons. That is why we believe that the issue of Iranian armament is used just as an excuse to arouse fear of Iran among the states of the region at a time when we want good-neighborliness.

[Al-Salman] How can the good intentions be reconciled with the fact that Iran is occupying the three United Arab Emirates [UAE] islands?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The word occupation is incorrect and we reject it. The issue of Iran's ownership of the islands goes back to before the victory of the revolution. That Iranian ownership will remain forever. We wonder why border disputes between Qatar and Bahrain and between some Gulf states do not harm bilateral relations between the states of the region while a "lie" about sovereignty over the islands is affecting bilateral relations with Iran? We find that strange.

[Al-Salman] You have said that you did not occupy the UAE islands. Why then are UAE nationals rendered homeless in non-UAE islands? How do you explain that?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] According to the UAE-Iranian 1971 agreement, Abu-Musa island comes under joint UAE-Iranian administration. This is a question not of islands but of one island. The islands of Tunb al-Kubra and Tunb al-Sughra belong to Iran. That crisis was fabricated to coincide with the Madrid conference in which some Arab states participated. We have documents proving that the issue of the islands was raised in order to promote the Madrid conference.

[Al-Salman] If Iran believes that the islands belong to it then why is it unhappy about going to the International Court of Justice?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] If we were to say, for instance, that some town belongs to Iran and asked the representatives of that town to go to the International Court of Justice with us, would they agree?

[Al-Salman] That is not clear. Could you clarify?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Argument about unfounded allegations is unacceptable. A mere allegation should not necessitate recourse to the International Court of Justice.

[Al-Salman] Your words have a provocative tone. So, how could the Arab Gulf peoples feel good about Iranian intentions?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I was just giving an example. A state's claim of ownership of some territory which does not belong to it has nothing to do with international charters and conventions.

[Al-Salman] You have said that Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Iraq can control the region's security. How could that be achieved?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] That matter requires study and numerous meetings. Our study of history has shown that Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Iraq play the major role in safeguarding the region's security.

[Al-Salman] But how is that done in actual fact?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I was talking about history.

[Al-Salman] What is the difference between history and reality?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] These states play a major role in the region's security, nobody can deny that. More time is needed to study this issue.

[Al-Salman] Some time ago Iran submitted a request to the Kuwaiti Government for land and sea exercises. Did you discuss that?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We did not discuss the matter during this visit.

[Al-Salman] From time to time Israel threatens to attack Iranian military nuclear positions. Would you retaliate if that happened?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] When Israel threatened, Iran answered its threats in the media.

[Al-Salman] I am talking about air strikes.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Do you have information that Israel would strike?

[Al-Salman] All the media are saying so, citing the Israeli chief of staff who said that Israel is contemplating a "preemptive strike" on some positions in Iran.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We do not imagine Israel has that wrong idea. As regards the talk about a nuclear program, we have no nuclear weapons. The international commission has confirmed that, along with the fact that the Iranian nuclear program is more civilian than military.

[Al-Salman] In an earlier interview, the Iranian president emphasized that Iran would not restore diplomatic relations with Israel, the United States, or Egypt, but there has noticeably been some rapprochement between Tehran and Cairo.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] That phrase attributed to the Iranian president on relations with Egypt was distorted by the media. It is incorrect.

[Al-Salman] What do you mean by distorted? Was it true or not?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The phrase used by the president was distorted. We have declared our position regarding Egypt and said that Egypt is one of the major Arab states, but, regrettably, Egypt played a part in the Camp David agreements and in the Israeli presence in the Arab world. Our differences began with that issue. So, there are some

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political problems with Egypt. But, contacts are continuing on economic and cultural relations. We are currently exchanging delegations' visits.

[Al-Salman] You have said that the source of your differences with Egypt is the Camp David agreements and the Israeli presence but Egypt says that you support some terrorist organizations and that that is the cause of the dispute.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We express our views and they express theirs.

[Al-Salman] Could you explain these views?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] You should address that question to the Egyptians.

[Al-Salman] It has been claimed that Iran aids some extremist organizations.

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] Which organizations do you mean?

[Al-Salman] Hizballah, Hamas, and organizations inside Egypt.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Others are saying that, but what is your own personal conviction?

[Al-Salman] What use is my personal conviction? That kind of talk is disseminated in the world. What can you tell the world?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I stress, are you convinced of these claims?

[Al-Salman] If you want a pleasant answer, I would say that I am not satisfied of it. Now, what is your opinion?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] You read these claims in the media, and we have given our answer to these claims in our press, but which answers do you accept? That is part of the media war against Iran.

[Al-Salman] Syria's relations with Iran are excellent. If a peace greement is signed, would that affect diplomatic relations between the two countries?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] There has been no normalization of relations so far.

[Al-Salman] But if such an agreement is signed?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We deal with realities not hypothetical situations.

[Al-Salman] Iran has noticeably been attacking the Damascus Declaration.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Every state has a right to be sensitive about its national security. The absence of Iran from that declaration was the reason why the security measures were not implemented. Signed but unimplemented agreements are the best proof of what we say.

[Al-Salman] What is the volume of trade between you and the United States on the one hand and you and Kuwait on the other?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The trade with Kuwait has reached $500 million and with the United States $800 million.

[Al-Salman] If the Middle East market becomes a reality, would Iran feel isolated?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Iran is not isolated from the world. It has numerous capabilities that would enable it to survive. The eight-year war proved that.

[Al-Salman] Would Iran accept a Middle Eastern market?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Would the Gulf peoples accept the presence of Israelis? I believe the Arab people will not allow Israeli intrusion.

[Al-Salman] Would the "dual containment" policy lead to an alliance between the East [as published] and Iran?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We believe that that policy has failed in practice. It has no effect in weakening the Islamic Republic. In fact it has become a source of strength. That policy has caused differences of opinion within the United States itself.

Velayati Meets Women's Socio-Cultural Members

LD1601130395 Tehran IRNA in English 1229 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a meeting with members of the Women's Socio-cultural Council here Saturday [14 January], appreciated the active participation of Iranian women on international scenes.

Velayati said that the Foreign Ministry was ready for any kind of cooperation aimed at improving the quality and promoting women's activities on international arena as a religious and national duty.

Meanwhile, head of the council Ms. Khazali said that women's position in the Islamic system and their involvement in high level social activities has drawn the attention of the world.

She stressed that the west's biased attitudes towards Iran stemmed from the influence practiced by the Islamic Revolution on the world.

Praising the participation of Iranian women in the Cairo conference, Velayati noted the presence of Iranian women had had very positive impacts on the confab.

At the end of the meeting, the foreign minister proposed that a joint committee be formed by various organizations in charge of women's international activities.

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